

THE



ERA

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Winifred Maude's Co., Alexandra T., Sheffield.

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Duke of York's Theatre.

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Stella, in "The Witness for the Defence."
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Nurse, "Romeo and Juliet."
Disengaged April 14.

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Royalty Theatre, Glasgow.

MISS EMMA STOCKLEY (Mrs. Edwin
Wilde). Supporting Mr. Rutland Barrington.
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Next, Junction, Manchester.

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At liberty April 20, onward.
April 7, T.R., Ashton-under-Lyne.

MR. CHARLES ASHWELL.
sails for South Africa May 17. Title-role,
"The Twelfth Man." Next, Hippo., Balham.

MR. CYRIL AUSTEN-LEE.
Peter Everest, "Improper Peter."
Theatre Royal, Norwich.

MR. EDWARD AVINAL.
Disengaged.
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Queen's Theatre, W.

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April 7, Opera House, Northampton.

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New Princes Theatre, W.C.

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PLAYS AND PROFITS.

In an article in a recent number of the "Ce-
lury Magazine" Mr. David Belasco tells an anec-
dote of a young playwright. "He was assistant
dramatic editor of a well-known daily in one of
our good-sized Western cities, and he presented
an introduction from his chief. His call seemed
purposeless till he rose to go. Then his sudden
hesitation and diffidence were appealing. An
encouraging smile enabled him to unburden him-
self.

"Could you give me a hint," he said, "as to the
best method of marketing a play?"

"An untold play," I replied, "is one of those
works of man to which it is impossible to apply
the law of supply and demand except by a sort of
intuition; and intuition at best is fallible. Bricks
or breakfast foods can be marketed; not so new
plays. They are read and either accepted or
declined. The only 'method' is to send your
play around to the various managers."

"Yes," he persisted, "but out of the mass of
plays so submitted there must be some—say half
a dozen—each of which the manager recognises
as being very nearly right, and any of which he
himself could quite easily make right. Could
you give me some idea of his criterion of choice
among them?"

"There is, as you say, not much difference
between several plays that are 'almost right.'
Emerson points out somewhere that the difference
between men is very slight, but he adds that dif-
ference is supremely important. It is as difficult
to explain why one chooses a play for production
as why one chooses a friend."

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS).

ABBREVIATIONS: In order to effect a saving in space the following abbreviations are used in these columns: P. (Proprietor); P. & M. (Proprietor and Manager); M. D. (Managing Director); L. & M. (Lessee and Manager); M. (Manager); G. M. (General Manager); A. M. (Acting Manager); Asst. M. (Assistant Manager); R. M. (Resident Manager); B. M. (Business Manager); T. M. (Touring Manager); Mus. D. (Musical Director); Mus. C. (Musical Conductor); S. (Secretary); S. & T. (Secretary and Treasurer).

LONDON.

ADELPHI THEATRE.—Sole P., Messrs. A. and S. Gail. This week: Mr. Geo. Edwards' new production, "The White Slave," musical play by J. T. Tanner. Lyrics by Lionel Ross and Percy Greenbank. Music by Lionel Monckton. The company includes: Mr. James Blakeley, Mr. F. Pope Stanger, Mr. J. D. Williams, Mr. G. Carlyn, Mr. Ivan Berlyn, Mr. Joseph Coyne, Miss Patricia Leigh, Miss M. Carrington, Miss Elsie Spaul, Miss Agnes Thomas, Miss Maud Cressall, Miss G. Palmer, and Miss Gertrude Miller. Matinee, Saturday, at 2.

ALDWYCH.—Sole P., Sir Joseph Beecham; G. M., Mr. A. M. Loader. This week (evening at 8): Sir Joseph Beecham presents a new comedy in three acts, "Her Side of the House," by Lechmere Worrall and Althea Hall. Cast includes: Mr. Geoffrey Tearle, Mr. Spencer Trevor, Mr. Harold Deacon, Mr. Philip Anthony, Mr. Alfred Toose, Miss Dulcie Wroughton, Miss Helen Ferrers, Miss Manora Thew, Miss Dorothy Chetwyn, Miss Jane Cooper, Miss Helen Green. Preceded at 8.15 by "The Broken String." Matinee, Wednesday and Saturday, at 2.30.

APOLLO THEATRE.—Sole P., Mr. Henry Lowenfeld; Sole L. & M., Mr. Tom B. Davis. This week: "The White Slave," musical play by George A. Birmingham. The company includes: Mr. Charles Hawtree, Mr. Leonard Boyne, Mr. Frank Stoney, Mr. W. G. Fay, Mr. Henry Newman, Mr. J. R. Tozer, Mr. S. Grenville Darling, Mr. Patrick Quill, Mr. Bernard Crosby, Mr. Edmund Harvey, Mr. A. Vane-Tempest, Miss Gladys Ffoliot, Miss Dorothy O'Neill, and Miss Catherine Nesbitt. Preceded by "A Little Fowl Play." Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, at 2.45.

BARNARD'S THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.—Licensee, Mr. Samuel Barnard; M., Mr. George Hamilton. This week: "The White Slave," musical play by George A. Birmingham. The company includes: Mr. Stanley Carlton, Mr. William G. Marshall, Mr. Edward Cudd, Mr. William Annesley, Mr. R. F. Wilson, Mr. Edward Fryer, Mr. W. H. Vernon, Mr. Fred Coutts, Mr. Sidney H. Jones, Mr. D. W. Warren, Mr. Fred Garth, Miss Cynthia Marshall, Miss Florence Young, Miss Mildred Chapman, Miss Alice Thorne, Miss Muriel Lawson, Miss Annie Ross, Miss Ruby Lee, Miss Charlotte Bellinger, Miss Nellie De Lacey, Miss Ruby Maude.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.—P., Mrs. G. Ellis Fredericks; G. M., Mr. Fred Fredericks. This week (once nightly, and Wednesday matinee, 2.30): Alban B. Limpus and Cecil Barclay's company in "The Turn of Mind." Cast includes: Rupert Lister, Herbert Rea, Charles Fancourt, E. Owen Chambers, George Barran, Campbell Beaver, A. Mayne, Alec Street, Geoffrey May, Alfred Manners, A. Wingood, Mary Forrester, Maud Garth, A. Vansittart, Cecil Barclay, T. M., Mr. Alban B. Limpus. Next week: "Westward Ho!"

BRITANNIA THEATRE, HOXTON.—M., Mr. Morton Powell. This week: "The White Slave," musical play by George A. Birmingham. The company includes: Mr. C. T. McCarthy, Mr. Philip Roy, Mr. Frank A. Bonner, Mr. Lazzio Costello, Miss Lila Wild, Miss Nellie Burdett, Miss Mabel Lowe, Mr. Beresford Whitcomb, Mr. Austen Melrose, Mr. Jackson Hayes, Mr. Arthur Brown, Mr. Henry J. Morton, Mr. Arthur Russell, and Mr. Leslie Clare.

BRIXTON THEATRE.—L. & M., Mr. Fredk. Melville; A. M., Mr. Newman Maurice. This week (matinee, Saturday, 2.30): Mr. J. Forbes Knowles and Mr. Harry Masterson's company in "Nick Carter, Detective."

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS, S.E.—L., Moss Empires, Ltd.; M., Mr. Arthur Chadleigh. This week (matinee, Wednesday, 2.30): "The Sunshine Girl." Matinee, Wednesday, 2.30.

COMEDY.—Sole L. & M., Mr. Arthur Chadleigh. This week (matinee, Wednesday, 2.30): "The Sunshine Girl." Matinee, Wednesday, 2.30.

CORONET THEATRE, W.—This week (nightly at 8; matinee, Saturday, at 2.30): "The Quaker Girl."

CRITERION.—L. & M., Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore. Every night, at 8, Eva Moore and H. V. Esmond. Preceded by Stacey Amouillon. The company includes: H. V. Esmond, Eric Lewis, Eva Moore, Carlotta Addison. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, at 2.30.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.—L., Mr. G. O. Starr; B. M., Mr. J. B. Sharpe. This week (once nightly): Mr. Frank Weatherly's company in "The Importance of Being Earnest." The company includes: Mr. Harold Weston, Mr. Julian D'Albie, Mr. Edward Mervyn, Mr. Eric H. Abury, Mr. Harold Barston, Miss Maud Kirwan, Miss May Saker, Miss Margaret Boyd, and Miss Dot Seabey. Matinee, Wednesday, 2.30.

DALSTON THEATRE.—L. & M., Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton. This week (once nightly, and Thursday matinee): Mr. George Dance's company in "A Waltz Dream." Cast includes: J. Noel Leyland, Fred Lyne, Geo. P. Burdett, John H. Val, Richard Kay, H. P. Noville, Joseph B. Cunningham, Reginald P. Rutter, Mabel Garman, Marion Broom, Rene Glynn, Barbara Lea, Daisy Yule, Nellie Palmer, Mabel St. Clair, Miss Shaw, Kathleen Brett, Violet Hope, Jessie Bevan, T. M., Mr. Victor Forsythe. Next week: "Bella Donna."

DALYS.—This week: Mr. George Edwards' production, "Gipsy Love," musical play, English libretto by Basil Hood. Lyrics by Adrian Ross. Music by Franz Lehár. Company includes: Mr. Robert Michaels, Mr. Harry Dearth, Mr. Webster Miller, Mr. Lauri de Frece, Mr. Fred Kaye, Mr. H. V. Esmond, Miss Sari Petras, Miss Rosina Filippi, Miss Mabel Russell, Miss Madeline Seymour, Miss Kate Welch. Last matinee, Saturday, 2. Last week.

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL.—M. D., Mr. Arthur Colman; P., Messrs. Robertson's Farewell Season (with Gertrude Elliott). "Hansel and Gretel," with "Passing of the Third Floor Back," with "Sacrament of Judas," April 1 and 11; "Mice and Men," April 7 and 12. The company includes: Mr. Walter Ringham, Mr. J. Forbes-Robertson, Mr. S. A. Cookson, Mr. J. H. Barnes, Mr. Alex. Scott Gatty, Mr. Percy Rhodes, Mr. Grendon Bentley, Mr. Montague Rutherford, Mr. Eric Moss, Mr. George Hayes, Mr. Robert Atkins, Mr. Richard Andean, Mr. E. Adney, Mr. Eric Ross, Mr. J. H. Ryley, Mr. S. T. Pearce, Miss Adeline Bourne, Miss Olive Richardson, and Miss Gertrude Elliott.

DUKE OF YORK'S.—Sole L. & M., Mr. Chas. Frohman. Every evening at 8.30, Mr. Gaston Mayer presents "The Yellow Jacket." Cast includes: Mr. Holman Clark, Mr. Frederick Ross,

Mr. E. Henry Edwards, Miss Dorothy Fane, Miss Peggy Hyland, Mr. Ernest Hendrie, Miss Lena Burnleigh, Miss Christine Silver, Mr. Charles Doran, Mr. Frederick de Lars, Mr. P. Cowley Wright, Mr. George Rolph, Miss Christine Rayner, Miss Hilda Bailey, Miss Sheila Hayes. Matinees, Thursday and Saturday, 2.30.

GALETHEATRE.—M., Mr. George Edwards. To-night (Saturday) a new musical play, "Cast," will include: Mr. Fred Kaye, Miss Emmy Wehler, Mr. George Edwards, Miss Connie Ediss, Mr. George Barrell, Miss Madeline Seymour, Mr. Charles Maude, Miss Gwendoline Brogden, Mr. Reginald Tozer, Mr. Robert Nainby, Mr. Arthur Wellesley, Miss Violet Wilson, Miss Irene Verona, Miss Gladys Wray, Miss Blanche Stoker, Miss Florence Reid.

GARRICK THEATRE.—L., Messrs. Arthur Boucher and Herbert Sleath. This week (evening at 8.30): Mr. Arthur Boucher presents "The Greatest Wish." Cast includes: Mr. Arthur Boucher, Mr. Farren Sontar, Mr. Thos. Sidney, Mr. Frank J. Arton, Mr. W. S. Harford, Mr. Archibald Macdonald, Mr. Clifford Heatherley, Mr. E. Percival Clark, Mr. W. Hubert, Miss Henrietta Watson, Miss Barbara Gott, Miss Beatrice May, Miss Isabel Jeans, Miss Alice de Burgh, Miss Maud Milton, Miss Nina Bentley, Miss Agnes Thornton, Miss Florence Pigott, Miss Edith King, and Miss Joyce Ruby. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.

GLOBE.—Tuesday at 8.15 and following evenings at 8.30: Ethel Irving in "Vanity," by Ernest Denney. Cast includes: Miss Phyllis Verel, Miss Caroline Bayley, Miss Ruth Bidwell, Miss Mabelle Hunt, Miss Mabel Trevor, Mr. Guy Standing, Mr. Paul Arthur, Mr. Townsend Whitting, Mr. James Lindsay, Mr. Eric Marco, Miss Edith Irving, and Miss Phyllis Verel.

HAMMERSMITH LYRIC.—L. & M., Mr. M. Wentworth Croke; A. M., Mr. P. Howard Sturges. This week (twice nightly): Mr. Charles H. Lester presents "The Frontier Queen." The company includes: A. W. Howson, A. Bancroft, P. Van Isert, James Stephenson, A. Mowbray, Harold Rees, Richard Hickman, Miss Dorothy Riddell, Miss Beatrice Anderson, Mr. Chas. H. Lester, Henry Johnson, John Talbot, Henry C. Gilpin, Henry Bowler, George Inwood, Chief Eagle Elk, Edward O'Grady, James Underwood, W. Murray Johns, Harry Field. Next week: "The Typhoon."

HAYMARKET.—Wednesday at 7.45 and following evenings at 8.30: "The Typhoon." Cast includes: Mr. Robin Shields, Mr. Laurence Irving, Mr. Henry Crocker, Mr. Claude Rains, Mr. Azoma Skeho, Mr. Charles Tearle, Mr. Leon M. Lion, Mr. Arthur Stanley, Mr. S. Isogai, M. E. Tsuchiya, M. K. Sumaga, Mr. G. Carr, Mr. H. O. Nicholson, Mr. Leon Quartermaine, Mr. E. Lyall Swete, Mr. Arthur Whitby, Mr. Allan Jeayes, Mr. Herbert Hewetson, Mr. Stuart Macgrove, Miss Marjorie Waterlow, Miss Mabel Mackenzie, First matinee, Saturday, 2.30.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—P., Sir Herbert Beerholm Tree. This week: "The Happy Island," by J. B. Fagan. Cast includes: Sir Herbert Tree, Mr. Norman McKinnel, Mr. Eric Maturin, Mr. Nigel Playfair, Mr. Arthur Wood, Mr. A. Scott, Mr. Henry Scott, Mr. E. A. George, Mr. Francis Barker, Mr. J. S. White, Mr. E. O. Smythson, Mr. Henry Morrell, Mr. Stanley Howitt, Mr. Reginald Grassford, Mr. Roy Byford, Mr. Ben Field, Mr. John Redford, Mr. George Laundry, Miss Phyllis Neilson-Terry, Miss Alice Phillips, Miss Patricia Hanne, Miss Margaret Bright, Miss Grace Forster, and Miss Marjorie Patterson. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE THEATRE. P., Moss Empires, Ltd.; L., and M., Mr. Andrew Melville. This week (once nightly): Messrs. Lloyd and Bown's company in "The White Slave." The company includes: Mr. Henry Holland, Mr. Stanley Vine, Mr. Dennis Clyde, Mr. Chas. Stacy, Mr. Bruce Williams, Mr. Clifford Bown, Miss Kathleen McMahon, Mr. Robert C. Ryder, Mr. J. Halston Crimmins, Mr. Allen Hudson, Mr. George Newton, Miss Lillian Murray, Miss Agnes Kingston, Miss Alice Newton, Miss Beatrice Hone, Matinee, Thursday, 2.30. Next week: "Kit Carson."

KENNINGTON THEATRE.—This week, every evening at 8: "Hindle Wakes." Matinee, Thursday, 2.

KING'S W.—This week: Derwent Hall Caine and company in "The Christian." Matinee, Thursday, 2.30.

KINGSWAY.—This week (at 8.20 each evening): "The Great Adventure." Cast includes: Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. George Twyman, Mr. Claude King, Mr. Lionel Artside, Mr. G. Poulton, Mr. Clarence Derwent, Mr. John Astley, Mr. Geoffrey Denys, Mr. Dawson Milward, Mr. Franklyn Roberts, Mr. Val Cuthbert, Mr. Cyril Bennett, Mr. Owen Mansel, Miss Wish Wynne, Miss Alma Ellerslie, Miss Lydia Billbrooke. Saturday, matinee, 2.30.

LYCEUM.—Every evening at 7.45: Messrs. Walter and Frederick Melville present "Nell Gwynne, the King's Favorite." The company includes: Mr. Laurence Maitland, Mr. H. Wilnot Jackson, Mr. Fred Ingram, Mr. George Milton, Mr. F. Willing, Mr. Sam Livesey, Mr. Frank Harvey, Mr. H. Charlton, Mr. W. Richard, Mr. Richard Bode, Miss Maud Elliott, Miss Janet Alexander, Miss Olive Elton, Miss Kitty Richter, Miss Marie Housley, Mr. Fred Morgan, Miss Polly Marsh, Miss Florence Carr, Mr. C. F. Collings, Mr. Austen Milroy, Mr. Fred Elsworth, Mr. Chas. Wingate, Mr. Percy Baverly, Mr. Guy Brice, Mr. Wood, Mr. J. T. Macmillan, Miss Tittell-Brune. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.

LYRIC THEATRE.—L. & M., Mr. William Greet; Sole P., Mr. Philip Michael Faraday. Every evening: Mr. P. Faraday presents "The Girl in the Taxi," musical play, by Frederick Fenn and Arthur Wing Pinero. Music by Jean Gilbert. Company includes: Mr. Arthur Playfair, Miss Amy Angarde, Miss Margaret Paton, Mr. Robert Averell, Mr. Louis Goodrich, Miss Violet Graham, Mr. Alec Fraser, Mr. C. H. Workman, Miss Evonne Arnold, Miss Gaily Buckley, Mr. Victor Fox, and Mr. George Carroll. Matinees, every Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.

MARLBOROUGH.—This week, nightly at 7.45: "Everywoman." Matinee, Thursday, 2.30.

NEW THEATRE.—P., Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore. Every night, at 8.30: "Bought and Paid For." Cast includes: Mr. Allan Aynesworth, Mr. Frank Craven, Mr. G. K. Kim, Miss Alexandra Carlisle, Miss Alice Crawford, Miss Sonia Boudart. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.

PLAYHOUSE.—This week, every evening at 8: "The Men of the Comedy," comedy, by Wilfred T. Coleby and Edward Knoblauch. The company includes: Mr. Cyril Maude, Miss Margery Maude, Miss Kathleen Jones, Mr. Edward Combermere, Mr. J. Harwood, Mr. Charles Bibby, Miss Frances Ivor, Mr. Arthur Curtis, Mr. Jack Hobbs, Mr. Eric Rae, and Mr. Kenneth Hurst. Preceded at 8.20 by "In Haarlem There Dwelt..." a Dutch idyll, with music by Dora Bright. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday at 2.30.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—L. & M., Mr. Frank Curzon. This week, at 9 each evening: Miss Marie Tempest presents a new comedy entitled "The Handful," by William Gordon Edwards. Cast includes: W. Graham Browne, C. J. France, Staff Macdonald, Miss Margaret Brubling, John Asley, Horton Cooper, G. O. Browne, George Bellamy, Miss Evelyn Beaumont, Miss Marie Tempest. At 8.30, "The Dumb and the Blind." Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.45.

PRINCES.—Nightly at 7.45: "Romeo and Juliet." Cast includes: Mr. Harcourt Williams, Mr. Gordon Bailey, Mr. Philip Hewland, Mr. Henry Phillips, Mr. Alfred Brydone, Mr. Vincent Lorraine, Mr. Ashton Togo, Miss Blanche Stanley, and Miss Lillian Hallows. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.

QUEEN'S.—This week: "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford," farcical comedy by George M. Cohan. Adapted from the stories by George Randolph Chester. The company includes: Mr. Hale Ham-

ton, Mr. Julian Royce, Mr. Herbert Vyryan, Mr. Cecil Cameron, Mr. Laurence Caird, Mr. J. R. Crawford, Mr. Frank Collins, Mr. Eldred Gelson, Mr. Douglas Gordon, Mr. R. A. Brandon, Mr. Forrester Harvey, Mr. Robert Ayrton, M. C. Denier, Mr. Frank Stanmore, Mr. Bryan G. Powley, Miss Madge Fabian, Miss Mary Brough, Miss Elsie Wood, Miss May Leslie Stuart, Miss Simeta Marsden, and Miss Rita Carr. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, at 2.15.

ROYAL ARTILLERY, WOOLWICH.—This week (once nightly): Mr. Goro Ouseley presents "The Cingalee." Company includes: Violet Rees, Dora Courtney, Eileen Bretton, Maizie May, Frances Northmore, Kitty Holmes, Cassie Langley, Nancy Townsend, Dorothy Gibbons, Nanette Chilcote, Grace Austin, Mabel Ross, Jean Stewart, Mai Joyce, Joan Maxey, Cissy Sephton, Teddie Staples, Sam Lockridge, Carl Beecher, Walter Uridge, Stanley Liston, Geo. Mudie (jun), Frank Bevan, Herbert Uzzelli, E. A. Mami, W. A. Reid, Amos Abdulla, Rhina By, Daisy Lake, Hebe Bliss, Nancy Hanton, Queenie Lane, T. M., Mr. George Carr. Matinee, Wednesday, 2.30.

ROYALTY.—This week: Messrs. J. Vedreane and Dennis Eadie present "Milestones," by Messrs. Arnold Bennett and Edward Knoblauch. The cast includes: Mr. Dennis Eadie, Mr. Hubert Harben, Mr. Stanley Logan, Mr. Lionel Atwill, Mr. Owen Nares, Mr. Reginald Malcolm, Mr. Lemmon Warde, Miss Haidee Wright, Miss Mary Jerrold, Miss Evelyn Weeden, and Miss Gladys Cooper. Matinees, Thursday and Saturday, 2.30.

SAVOY.—Tuesday, April 8, Mr. Lawrence Grossmith will produce "Brother Alfred," by H. W. Westbrooke and P. G. Wodehouse. Cast will include: Mr. Arthur Chesney, Mr. Franklyn Roberts, Mr. Edward Sass, Mr. Arthur Hatherton, Miss Florence Tempest, Miss Faith Celli, Miss Gwyneth Galtion, Mr. Sydney Skarratt, Mr. Lawrence Grossmith, Mr. E. W. Garden, Mr. Philip Cunningham.

SHAFESBURY.—Nightly at 8.15: Mr. Robt. Courtneidge's production, "Oh! Oh! Delphinella!" The company includes: Mr. Courtneidge, Mr. Coningsby Brierley, Mr. Charles Chamberlain, Mr. Harry Welchman, Miss Winifred Roma, Miss Gwyneth Hughes, Miss Marjorie Compton, Miss Mollie Hanbury, Miss Connie Luttrell, Miss Marjorie Willis, Mr. Walter Passmore, Miss Iris Hoey, Miss Winifred Delvante, Miss Dorothy Jordan, Mr. Vincent Lewis, Miss Nan Starr, Miss Cissie Debenham, Mr. Fred Evison, Mr. Reginald Owen, and Miss Violet Gould. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, at 2.15.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.—This week (twice nightly, matinee, Wednesday, 2.30): "Queen of the Redskins." Cast includes: "The White Slave," musical play by George A. Birmingham. The company includes: Mr. George Alexander, Irene Vanbrugh, Sydney Valentine, A. E. Benedict, E. Vivian Reynolds, Rosalie Toller, Reginald Malcolm, May Marley, and "The White Slave" players. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.15.

STRAND.—This week at 8.45: Mr. Louis Meyer presents "The Woman in the Case." The cast includes: Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Miss Nora Lancaster, Miss Mary Griffiths, Miss Gwendolyn, Miss Rita Kingston, Mr. William Grant, Mr. Herbert Sleath, Mr. E. Dagnall, Mr. J. Parish Robertson, Mr. Martin Henry, Mr. Arthur Bell, and Mr. Lambert Plummer. Preceded by "The Morning Post." Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.15.

THEATRE ROYAL.—P., Mrs. C. Ellis Fredericks; G. M., Mr. Fred Fredericks. This week (once nightly, and Monday matinee, 2.30): Barlowe Borland presents Canning in "From Portland to Liberty." Cast includes: Canning, Mr. Arthur Wingrave, Mr. Almyr Vane, Mr. Charles Lockhart, Mr. Arthur Byron, Mr. Frank Ayrton, Mr. E. Benson, Mr. Charles Enright, Mr. Edward Wynter, Mr. Fred Miller, Mr. Frank Mackay, Mr. Howard Veale, Mr. Sydney Humphreys, Mr. Bertram Dixon, Mr. W. H. De Vere, Mr. Paul Atherton, Mr. Robt. Hinsdale, Mr. George Best, Mr. Vincent Davis, Miss Dorothy Richardson, Miss Ida Thomson, Miss Florence Lovell. Next week: "The Bondman."

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE, STRAND.—Every evening, at 8.40, Hilda Trevelyan and Edmund Gwynn present "The Schoolmistress," by Arthur Pinero. The company includes: Mr. Dion Boncail, Mr. Edmund Gwynn, Mr. Ronald Squire, Master C. Saint-Eve, Mr. Stafford Hilliard, Mr. Walter Westwood, Mr. Archie McCaig, Mr. Douglas Munro, Mr. Oliver G. Johnston, Miss Winifred Emery, Miss Gwynne Herbert, Miss Muriel Martin, Miss Nellie Curtis, Miss M. Casey Bell, Miss Hilda Trevelyan, Miss Lillian Mason. Preceded at 8.15 by "A Penny Pinch." Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.

WIMBLEDON THEATRE.—This week (nightly at 7.45): "Westward Ho!" Matinee, Thursday, 2.30.

WYNDHAM'S.—Every evening at 8, an English version of "Diplomacy," by Victorien Sardou. Cast includes: Gerald du Maurier, Arthur Woner, Norman Forbes, Owen Nares, Donald Calthrop, H. Laurent, Frederick Cully, Lady Tree, Ellis Jeffreys, Gladys Cooper, Annie Schellert, Vincent Davis, Alcegaon West. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, at 2.

ALHAMBRA.—G. D., Messrs. A. Charlott and M. V. Leveaux. Every evening at 8 (matinee, Saturday at 2.30): "Kill That Fly!" by George Grossmith. Players include: J. McArdie, Rene Koval, Hugh E. Wright, Cloy Cooke, Alfred Austin, Muriel Hudson, Rene Parker, Kitty Mason, Marjorie Maxwell, Mamie Buck, Mollie Dania. Preceded by variety—Cornalla and Eddie, Mollie and Bart, Lambert and Edwards, Maurice Charles, and pictures.

BEDFORD PALACE.—R. M., Mr. G. A. Higga. This week (twice nightly): J. W. Rickaby, comedian; Harry Ford, comedian; Alma Stanley and company in "A China Orange"; Will Owen, comedian; Steingos Duo, in novelty act; Edna Payne, violinist; Jenny and Joe, comedy couple; Jack Ferris, comedian; Lissie and Edna, vaudeville artists; Queenie Leigh, male impersonator; Arthur Watson and company in "Sprouts"; and pictures.

BRIXTON EMPRESS.—This week (twice nightly): The original American Rag-time Octette; Mina Bax; Lawrence Bros.; Dulcet Trio; Puss and Lewis; L. E. Fiddle; Mr. Dion Boncail; Harry Rogers and company; the Dayton Family; Geo. Pickett and Mary Mayfren in "The Big Joss"; and pictures.

CHELSEA PALACE.—M., Mr. J. Norman Berlin. This week (twice nightly): Tom Foy and company in "The First of April." Sam Sile, entertainer; Doris Trevelyan, girl with a voice; Rose and Lewis, Yankee Doodle duo; Millie Payne, character comedy artist; Chas. Kasrac and company in "Buffet de Falls"; Little Pam, drummer and dancer; Minnie Mace, comedienne; Josephine Davis, comedienne, assisted by Billy Geller; Seven Rag-time Gipsy Girls, dancing fiddlers; and pictures.

CHISWICK EMPIRE.—This week (twice nightly): The real Anna Eva Fay; Alexandre and Hughes; Smile and Smote, etc.

COLISEUM.—M. D., Mr. Oswald Stoll. This week (twice daily): Fragon and a piano; Mme. Lydia Yavorska and company in "Lolotte"; Miss Nancy Price, supported by Mr. John McNally and Mr. Reginald Davis, in "The Borsal Boy"; the two Army captains, Wood and Green (Captain Arthur Wood, son of Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, V.O., and a comedy-dance; Captain Henry Green, D.S.O.), in their society entertainment; James A. Watts, new comedian, in burlesque; George Mozart, in new burlesque and impressions; the Three Rascals, rag-time singers at the piano; Oswald Williams, Hinsonet; Bella and Bloua entertainers; Renee Mayer and company in "Hitchy Koo"; Griffiths Bros.; Two Tomboys; Jennie Johns; and pictures.

COLLINS'S, ISLINGTON GREEN.—Co-proprietor, Mr. J. P. Mitchell. This week (twice nightly): Lingsa Singh, Hindoo sorcerer; Flo Martell presents Chiffon and her dancers; Grace Stoll, musical comedy artist; James Stewart, at the piano; the Carollis Trio; the Scotch Candy Kids, singers and dancers; Gladys Warren, burlesque actress; Jack and Willie, equilibrist; Otto Munster and company present "The Sky Pilot"; the Harvey Boys; pictures.

EAST HAM PALACE.—This week (twice nightly): The Three Rascals, American singers at the piano; Harry Randall, comedian; Chris Baker; Sisters Caselli; Pitts-Allyn; Bellonin, juggler; Louise Zelland; H. M. Vernon and company in "Canada"; the Society Quartette; and pictures.

EMPIRE.—M., Mr. Arthur Alden. This week: "Everybody's Doing It," by Geo. Grossmith and C. H. Bovill. Players include: Unity Moore, Ivy St. Helier, Maud Jay, Zoe Gordon, Fred Farren, Will Cromwell, Scott Russell, Vernon Watson, and Robert Hall; "15," played by Marie Anita Bazzi, Edward Irwin, H. Browning, Victor Maude, Marsh Allen; also Conrad and Whidden, in rag-time rhapsodies; De Caruso and Son; the Three Ernests; Olga Tcharna; Lydia Kyasht in "The Reaper's Dream"; and pictures.

EUSTON.—This week (twice nightly): Chas. T. Aldrich; Coakley, Hanvey and Dunlevy, "The Town Hall Minstrels"; Dion Wade; Maude Ford; Cissie Curlette; Ernest Shand; the Meymotts; Tom Woodwell; Thorne Leopold, the Frank L. Gregory Troupe; the Ziegner Quartette; and pictures.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.—This week (twice nightly): Harry Tate and company in "Motoring"; Six Bros. Luck in "H.M.S. Perhaps"; Carr's American Rag-timers; Lorna and Toots Pounds, etc.

HIPPONDROME.—M. D., Mr. Frank Allen. This week (twice daily): "Hullo, Rag-time!" a revue, written by Max Pemberton and Albert de Courville. Company includes: Ethel Levy, Shirley Kellogg, Bonita, Lew Hearn, O. P. Heggie, Jack Mason, Morris Harvey, Geo. L. Bickle and his comedy band, Clarence Whitehill, Leslie Owen, Jamie Dodds, Gerald Kirby, Eric Roper, etc. For one week, Harry Williams and Nat D. Ayer will appear in revue: Variety—Hong Kong, Chinese comedian; Rudolph, musician; Four Arconis, acrobats; the Neslos, gymnasts; and pictures.

HOLBORN EMPIRE.—M. D., Mr. Charles Gulliver. This week (twice nightly): Olga, Elgar and Eli Hudson; Fred Emney, supported by Miss Sydney Fairbrother, in "A Sister to Assist"; Billy Williams; Geo. D'Albert; Rosie Archer; Harry Rogers; Lowenwirth and Cohan; Hanvarr and Lee; the Mezzettis; Gladys Mavias; Ray's Football Skating Girls; the Poluskis; Eli Redford. Mr. Chas. Gulliver presents Paul J. Rainey's "African Hunt," moving pictures, daily at 3.

KILBURN EMPIRE.—This week (twice nightly): Clark and Hamilton; Will Evans; Joe Elvin and company; Princess D'Araba; H. O. Willis; Millie Payne; Roy and Fay Lilmar; Mariotti Edgar; Six Buster Browns; Clark and Most; Lily Arthur; and pictures.

KINGSTON EMPIRE.—P. & M., Mr. Clarence Somes. This week (twice nightly): Lorch Family; Harry Champion; Adelman Family; Six Lancashire Lasses; Valdo Bros.; Edie King; Johnny Woods; Hettie Zillwood; Cecilia Storm and Partner.

LONDON PAVILION.—This week: American Rag-time Octette; Jock McKay, Scotch comedian; the McNaughtons, eccentric comedians; the Gottsams, comedy quartette; "The Substitute," a comedy duologue, presented by Hilda Trevelyan, supported by Lou Hall; the Richardson Troupe; gymnasts; Elsie Fay and company, dancers; Billie Butt, comedienne; Julian Mack, in topical talk; Rich and Rich, comedians; Lily and Vi Hanley, dancers; the Daytons, acrobats; Ernest Shand, comedian; Victoria Campbell, Scottish nightingale; Morton and Bowman, comedy duo.

MASKELINE AND DEVAUNT'S MYSTERIES, ST. GEORGE'S HALL, W.—Daily at 3 and 8: Mr. David Devant in "Rag-time Magic," introducing the Mystic Minstrels, etc.; Mr. Raymond Phillips; Wireless Controlled Airship; the Crystals; Mr. Ernest Hastings, etc.

METROPOLITAN.—This week (twice nightly): Texas Tommy Dancers in rag-time dancing; Master Freddy Hackin in "A Night at the Pantimino"; Minnie Mace, comedienne; Romanoff, violinist; Fred Curtis, humorist; Les Andres, dancers; John W. Kendrick and Laura, comedy artists; Beaumont, patterer; Doris Trevelyan, vocalist; Green and Wood, bumpy bumps; Alanson, electrical act.

MIDDLESEX.—P., The Middlesex Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.; M., Mr. Harry Garnham; Mus. D., Mr. Amos Parker. This week (twice nightly): "The Red Coat"; Karl Howard, magic muddler; Chas. Norton, in mimetic scene; Coram, ventrilo-

quist; and pictures. Next week: "The Work Girl."

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.—P., Moss Empires, Ltd.; M., Mr. Frank Tinney; Sam Mayo, the Falcons; Kathleen Kay; Three Cornerfords; Harlequinades; Frank and Vesta; Gresham Sketch company in "The New Life"; and pictures.

OXFORD.—M., Mr. Blyth Pratt; Neil Kenyon, Scottish humorist, as the Station Master of Dunrobin; Conrad and Whidden, two musical fends; R. H. Douglass, with a laughologue; Dan Whitely, eccentric; the great Gregory Troupe in hoop rolling, juggling, etc.; Society Quartette in unique act; Gns Elen, the convivial coster; Leslie Stiles, with Kathleen Courtney and Lily Millar in musical mélange, "On the Pier"; France and Stewart, in "The Little Puritan"; Geo. Prince; Martin Adeson, in "A Doubtful Policy"; Frank and Fred, in frolics; Walker and Lake, with patter; Tom Gott, comedian; John Weil, conjurer; Cissie Curlette, comedienne; Pyck, Tholl and Taylor, "The Dancing Master"; Marie Courtney, with something new; and pictures.

PALACE.—M. D., Mr. Alfred Butt. Evenings at 8 (matinees, Wednesday and Saturday at 2): Edmond Payne, in "What a Game!" by Michael Morton. Music composed and arranged by Herman Parry; Marie Le's "Dresden China"; Nina Gordon in songs and selections from her repertoire; Conroy and Le Maire in "The New Physician"; "Le Petit Cabaret" a rag-time revel, with Toby Claude as principal comedian.

PALLADIUM.—This week (twice nightly): Little Tich; Percy Honri in "Bohemia"; Charlotte Parry; Will Evans, Sisters Jerome; Oran Trio; Ethel Ward and company in "Her Map of Majesty"; Dave Samuels, rag-time Hebrew. The Palladium Minstrels (full show) daily at 2.30 (for two weeks only).

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.—This week (twice nightly): Vesta Tilley; "The Elder of the Kirk," by Allan Macdonald and company; Phil Ray, etc.

SOUTH LONDON PALACE.—This week (twice nightly): Ed. E. Ford, in "Scalped"; Maudie Ford; Archie Pitt; John Earle; Morton and Bowman; Ernest Shand; Dion Wade; Frank Mayo and American company in "The Bargain"; Elsie Fay and company; and pictures.

SURREY THEATRE.—This week, twice nightly (matinee, Monday, 2.30): Billy Mares; Bert Gilbey and company; Tom E. Hughes; Eight Stella Girls, etc. Grand rag-time song competition every evening.

TIVOLI.—M., Mr. Joseph Wilson. George Formby, popular Lancashire comedian; Melville Gideon, in rag and other melodies; Nina Gordon in songs and selections from her repertoire; Ruber Ginner and Grecian dancers; The Fitzroys, gymnasts; Tom Stuart, in burlesque impressions; Peggy Pryde; Mark Leslie.

TOTTENHAM PALACE.—M., Mr. G. M. Perry. This week (twice nightly): Ernest C. Rolls presents "Ragmania"; Barney Murphy, comedian; Vere and Neilson, novelty couple; Louie Tracy, male impersonator; May Henderson, comedienne; Huley and Bent, comedians; Mona Vivian, vocalist; Josh Clifton presents the Five X-Rays; Josh McKay; and pictures.

VICTORIA PALACE.—M. D., Mr. Alfred Butt. Frank Tinney, the fun beam; Billy Merson, eccentric comedian; Maud Tiffany, comedienne; Jeanette Dupre; Harry Bedford; Sylvester Duo; Ruth Lytton; Frou-Frou; Ivey Latimer; the Anarctos, musical comedians; the Wedgwood Bluea concert party; and pictures. Matinees daily at 3, the animated pictures, "Wonders of the South Seas."

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.—This week (twice nightly): "Ragmania," presented by E. C. Rolls; Frank H. Fox, Mona Vivian, Frank Sylvio, George Ross, Louie Tracy, Huley and Bent, the McNaughtons (Fred and Gus), Josh Clifton presents the Five X-Rays, and pictures.

WOOD GREEN EMPIRE.—This week (twice nightly): George Robey; Irene Dillon; Kara; Cornalla and Eddie, etc.

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OUR AMATEURS.

The performances of the Bermudez Constitutional Club Operatic Society (which is now in its 21st year) are usually very good, and we were not disappointed in the first performance on Wednesday evening this week of the Society's revival of "The Emerald Isle"—Basil Hood, Sir Arthur Sullivan, and Edward German's opera of "the land where the shamrock grows." It is always difficult to individualise with respect to amateur productions, but we feel quite safe in asserting that chief honours fell this time to Mr. Sid Carter as Professor Bunn. A comedian of the George Graves type, this gentleman's humorous singing, agile dancing, and facial play kept the audience in one continuous roar of laughter. No less successful in her own particular way was Miss Rosa Dallow as Lady Rosie Peppin. Possessed of a charming stage presence and a sweet soprano voice, all the numbers that fell to this lady were exceptionally well rendered, and we have nothing but praise for her performance. Miss Dolly Roberts realised the peasant girl, Molly O'Grady, to a nicety. She is a sweet and fascinating little lady, and sings and dances delightfully, and she showed in the scene where Pat Murphy declares that he is not blind that she is also quite a capable actress. Mr. J. Hughes Manning made quite an artistic study of Terence O'Brien, and was a big success. He has an excellent tenor voice, and all his numbers were loudly applauded. More should be heard of this capable artist. Pat Murphy, the Fiddler, was ably impersonated by Mr. J. Griffiths, his fine voice being heard to great advantage. Mr. Wilfred Cook realised the farcical dignity of the Lord Lieutenant, and Miss E. R. Catley was quite good as the Countess of Newtown, his wife. This lady has a contralto voice of no mean merit. Mention should also be made of Mr. A. Purcell, who did what he could with the part of the Chaplain, and Miss E. Drake, who, as Susan, was demurely quaint. The Misses Olive Crook and E. Murfett as peasant girls tripped the light fantastic delightfully, and proved themselves no mean exponents of the terpsichorean art, while the choruses, which opened somewhat weakly, later in the evening accredited itself excellently. The Irish jig at the opening of the second half richly deserved the encore demanded. The dresses and costumes by Simmons were admirable, and the staging and lighting all that could be desired, whilst the stage management, having regard to the small area of the stage, reflected great credit on Mr. Sid Carter, the stage manager. An efficient orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Fred Blake, ably assisted.

"Fine Feathers," an original comedy in two acts, written and produced by members of the Woolwich and Plumstead Bowling and Tennis Club, at the Town Hall, Woolwich, March 29, deals in fairly amusing fashion with the adventures of the newly rich Mrs. Ratterbury and her son Reginald, who in their attempts to "climb" are led to entertaining "crooks" unawares in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. Wiloughby. With the Duke and Duchess of Howton and others they are expected to dinner. Mr. Ratterbury, though much "hempecked," does not share his wife's social aspirations, and on this day, emboldened by a visit from his old friend, Franking, he is induced to defy his wife, and goes off to a meeting of the Husbands' Emancipation League, known to its members as H.E.L. The efforts of his family to explain the absence of the host, the theft of the jewels of the guests by the Wiloughbys, and their capture in the attempt to leave the house with the "swag" by the butler, Bates, and P.C. Small, both working for the love of the fascinating cook, form the main incidents of the two acts, which end with the return of the prodigal and the general pairing-off of the unmarried members of the long cast. The dialogue has many bright and amusing lines, and the piece contains some humorous, if slightly familiar, situations. A very good bit of characterisation and character acting was the solid butler, Bates, of Captain T. N. Moors, whose rare smiles one learned to wait for. Mr. F. Duncan Hart sustained the mannikins of the brainless Reggie consistently, and Mr. J. Houlihan was amusingly self-important as P.C. Small. Mrs. Geo. H. Graham played with spirit the part of the cook, Mrs. Appleby, but Miss Edith H. Brown, a pretty little, was inclined to underline too much the Gallicisms of the French maid. Miss Mason worked hard as the strong-minded Mrs. Ratterbury, and Mr. Sidney T. Webster was amusing as her subdued husband, the other members of the cast contributing to a result much appreciated by a large audience.

The Hendon A.D.S. played Mr. H. V. Esmond's "One Summer's Day" at Hendon, on March 28 and 29, and the performances were much enjoyed by the large audiences present. The effect of the comedy, which is rather over-burdened with old-fashioned sentimentality, would have been improved had the pace been quickened in some of the scenes, which were well acted. Mr. Albert J. Thurston did not quite escape the fault of monotony in his impersonation of the sober Major Dick; Mr. Theodore E. Williams, though not quite happily made up, showed a nice sense of character acting as Theodore Bendyshe; Mr. Alex. McC. Withers was natural and convincing as the schoolboy, Tom Reid, and Mr. Cyril W. Stevens was humorous as the urchin. Miss Marjorie B. Withers acted nicely, though showing signs of inexperience, as Maymie. It was not entirely Miss May Rimmer's fault, perhaps, that her Chiara was the gipsy of the operatic stage rather than of the caravan, and Miss Mabel Lightfoot's gipsy, Bess, was more in the picture. Other parts were efficiently filled by Messrs. F. Jennings, L. Seymour Metford, G. Weston Adams, and Misses Mona Mark and Alice M. Sandbrook.

Mr. Edward M. Phillips and the members of the Croydon Operatic Society are to be congratulated on their courage and enterprise in presenting Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffmann" at the Stanley Hall, Norwood Junction, this week, which was justified by the excellent result at the first performance on Wednesday evening. With an alternative cast on Thursday evening for some of the principal parts, the piece will be repeated to-day (Saturday). Miss Cecile Whitefield's make-up and extraordinarily good, the illusion being carried out in the expressionless piping voice of the puppet. In the part of Antonia this versatile actress presented a complete contrast, and her fine voice was heard to advantage in the trying scene of the third act. Miss Annie Wallace's presence, voice, and good acting told in the part of Gullietta, and the well-known Barcarolle in the effective Venetian scene was well delivered and enthusiastically received. Miss Anita de Escobar acted well as Nicklaus. Though the general tendency was for the work of the excellent orchestra rather to overpower the singers, Mr. Dudley Masters, who doubled the parts of Coppélius and

Dappertutto, was quite able to hold his own in his well-rendered song, "His soul shall be mine." Mr. John Hildreth gave a fine exposition of the trying part of Hoffmann, so much in evidence throughout what are practically the five acts of the piece; and Mr. John Dixon played cleverly as the satanic Dr. Miracle. The arrangement of the dances and other business gave signs of the general careful rehearsal of this fantastic and popular opera.

"Cupid and Cupidity," an entirely new mock trial farce, produced publicly for the first time on Thursday evening last, at the Lecture Hall, Wimbledon, is written by Mr. Anthony A. Drake. Brightly played by a company of amateurs, which included the author in the part of the presiding learned judge, Justice Muddle, the piece afforded genuine amusement, and proved very acceptable to the audience which filled the hall. Without attempting to plagiarise its famous prototype, "Trial by Jury," the piece contained some smart dialogue, and owed its success mainly to the clever and distinct characterisation of the clever and distinct characterisation of the most of the thirty-four members of the cast, and to the burlesque treatment of familiar procedure. It is obvious that it is not possible to notice individually such a large number of characters, but the company worked well together, and the finish and general "go" of the performance showed signs of careful rehearsal. The play of the jury was good, and the burlesque speech of the counsel for the defendant, Sir Ledward Sharp, was humorously delivered by Mr. R. A. Bell. Noteworthy amongst the witnesses for plaintiff and defendant were Mr. A. D. Blake's really clever and quite unrepulsive study of a village idiot; Miss M. Hudson's sharp parlourmaid, Betty; Mr. Cedric Miller, who was unconventional and debonair as the music hall star, Phil Swanker, and also played the part of the heathen Chinese, Chin Ah Lee; Miss M. Speed and Mr. Eric Richmond as a pair of precocious twins; and Mr. G. Williamson as the appropriately named Socialist, Blatant Brayson. Miss N. Board was comically precise as the elderly plaintiff, Miss Patricia Hunter. The skilful arrangement of the large number of players on the comparatively small stage reflects credit on the producer, Mr. A. A. Drake.

In the Provinces.

The Souththorpe Amateur Operatic Society has again, for the fifth year in succession, been able to produce one of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas. This time "Iolanthe" was the chosen opera, and, opening on the Wednesday of last week and the three successive days at the Palace Theatre, Souththorpe, evidence was not wanting that, as in previous years, success would crown their efforts. The selection of the principals was a happy one, and reflects great credit upon the committee's judgment. Mr. Nicholson, who is the honorary conductor, had a complete grasp of the whole business, and much of the success was due to his coaching and instruction. Mr. Harry Kay, the permanent conductor at this house, was the leader of the band, and the society did well in securing his services. The character of Lord Chancellor was capably sustained by Mr. William Spencer. Earl Mountararat, as performed by Mr. Gerald Holder, proved that he is both a capable actor and fine vocalist. Mr. Tom Willey, of Grimsby, was called upon in the latter stages of the rehearsal to take up the part of Earl Toller owing to a bereavement sustained by Mr. Percy Holt. Mr. Willey did excellently in the part, his voice seemed as rich as ever, and the ovation he received at the end testified as to his popularity. As Private Willis Mr. W. Boothroyd was very funny, and was repeatedly encouraged for his rendering of "When all night long." To Mr. A. W. Geary must be awarded much praise for his impersonation of Strephon, "the Arcadian shepherd." Mrs. A. W. Geary, despite a severe cold, succeeded in making the part of the Fairy Queen a decided success. In the name part, Mrs. Dudley left nothing to be desired. Mrs. W. Boothroyd, as Phyllis, sang the numbers sweetly, and was most successful in her rendering of "Nay, tempt me not." The Misses Woodcock, Haywood, and Wright were very creditable as Celia, Leila, and Pleta respectively. The choruses at times showed weakness of voice, especially the tenors, but otherwise they gave a very good account of themselves. Mr. Moon Brown, the honorary stage manager, has done his work well, and is to be congratulated upon the production. Mr. Mason, the resident-stage-manager, rendered valuable assistance, and a word of praise is due to Mr. T. O. Hodgson, along with his staff of honorary assistants, who looked after the electrical effects.

At the Alexandra Hall, Hfracombe, on Easter Monday and Tuesday evenings, an excellent performance of the late Dion Boucicault's evergreen drama, "The Colleen Bawn," was given by a company of local amateurs, coached by Mr. Victor Gardom, who also starred in the rôle of the hunchback, Danny Mann. The name part was played with winsome charm and girlishness by Miss Estelle Gardner, who had the co-operation of that favourite Hfracombe amateur, Mr. Travers Cooke, as her secret husband, Hardress Crogan. Miss Bateman proved herself a clever elocutionist and showed great dramatic power in her portrayal of Mrs. Crogan, the aristocratic mother of Hardress; whilst as the high-spirited heiress, Anne Chute, Miss Alice Dickinson was piquant and vivacious; her suitor, Kyrle Daly, being breezily played by Mr. H. Mitchell. Sheelah, the peasant mother of Danny Mann, was portrayed to the life by Mrs. Nicholson; and Mr. E. P. Le Queune submitted a fine character study of Father Tom. Mr. E. T. MacMichael gave a good rendering of the rollicking Myles-na-Coppaleen; Mr. Reginald Burton doing his best as the lawyer, Corrigan. All the minor parts were in safe keeping, a special word of praise being merited by the couples dancing the gavotte in the last act, the dance being arranged by the Misses Bolton. Mr. Gardom's performance of Danny Mann proved one of the best pieces of work he has done locally, artistic restraint, combined with intense power, stamping it throughout, his death scene being a triumph of realism. The staging and costumes alike were excellent, and, as the result of crowded houses on both nights, a handsome sum has been handed over to the funds of the local company of Boy Scouts.

The Yarmouth and Gorleston Lyric Society, which has already produced "Billie Taylor," "Les Cloches de Corneville," "Falks," "Dorothy," and "H.M.S. Pinafore," further distinguished itself at Easter by giving six performances of "Paul Jones" to large and appreciative houses at the Royal Aquarium, Great Yarmouth, in the sacred cause of charity. The opera was produced under the direction of Mr. Henry Furnival, who employed his ripe experience to excellent effect, and he was ably supported by Mr. Fred Grice as musical-director. Between them they created out of local material a very smart chorus, in which the quality and sonority of the men's voices was an outstanding feature; while the dressing and stage bearing left little to be desired. Mr. George Harrison essayed the titular part creditably, despite a rather provincial pronunciation; and Mr. George Legood scored greatly as Bouillabaisse; and, with his wife as Chopinette, was responsible for some excellent comedy. Miss Winifred Ballis was a charming and dainty Yvonne, and sang well. Other parts received praiseworthy treatment, and the society deserves congratulations.

The Leicester Amateur Music and Dramatic Society are having their annual gala week at the Royal Opera House, where they gave the first of seven performances of "Rip Van Winkle" before a crowded house on Monday evening. The society have for many years now achieved brilliant success, both artistically and financially, and if the splendid send-off on Monday can be taken for anything, they are in for another most successful week, which will benefit the local charities. The society has always been lucky in having associated with it gentlemen who thoroughly understand their business, such as Mr. J. K. Blackwell, the hon. conductor and chorus-master; Messrs. J. C. McRobie and A. H. Hind, the stage managers; Mr. T. H. Prentice, acting-manager and hon. treasurer; Messrs. J. W. Staunton and W. Palmer, property masters; Mr. Walter Grocock, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., accompanist; and Mr. A. E. Deacon, hon. secretary. This year it was decided to give Planquette's romantic comic opera, "Rip Van Winkle" (by permission of Messrs. Chappell and Co.), and it is a pleasure to record once again that the company gave a really fine "show." The part of Rip, the good-for-nothing, stands out most prominently, and to Mr. Arthur Hackett we have nothing but praise to bestow. Possessed of a really fine voice, he has also succeeded in acquiring histrionic abilities of great merit, and success in the part throughout was undoubted. Another artist who also scored a triumph was Mme. Florence Smart as Gretchen in the first two acts, and as Rip's daughter in the third act. This lady is an established favourite, and her beautiful soprano voice was heard to signal advantage in "The Legend of the Catskills," "Now the twilight," and the "Letter song." Her acting, too, was above reproach. Miss Florence Blackwell, as the village flirt, Katrina, added another to the many successes she has already achieved, her singing and acting being of the best. Mr. W. G. Orton, who is both a sterling vocalist and actor, leaves nothing to be desired as Derrick Van Sluis. Mr. S. L. Jordan, as Nick Vedder; Mr. Val Briggs, as Peter Van Dunk; and Mr. G. J. Jones, as Dick Knickerbocker, were very good in the humorous parts; and Mr. C. W. Dedman, as Captain Hendrick Hudson, and Mr. R. S. Hibbert (in dual rôles) are also to be highly complimented on their clever portrayals. Master Ernest H. Copley, as Derrick's nephew, and Miss Marjorie Moss, as Alice, are two delightfully clever juveniles; and Miss Dulcie Grocock, as Leedle Jan, is also popular. One of the outstanding features of the opera was the appearance of Miss Elsa Grocock as the Rhine Fay. Although Miss Elsa is quite a child, she is possessed of dancing abilities rarely seen on the professional stage, her toe dancing being especially noteworthy, clever, and at all times graceful. The band and chorus numbered 100, and their training reflected much credit on all concerned.

The premier operatic society in Glasgow is the Orpheus, and it may be mentioned here that on Saturday last the club celebrated its twenty-first anniversary by a dinner in the Grosvenor Restaurant. When an operatic club has been in existence for twenty-one years, and given performances of uniform excellence every year during that time, it is a record to be proud of. This year's production in the Theatre Royal is Gilbert and Sullivan's "Yeomen of the Guard," which the club had given previously nine years ago. On the present occasion an excellent rendering was given of the popular opera, and the principals acquitted themselves particularly well. Miss Marjory Dunlop sang sweetly and acted with much feeling as Elsie Maynard. Miss Crué Davidson was a lively and vivacious Phoebe Meryll, and made a hit right away with her spinning song, which came the opera. Mrs. Jim Gordon was a stately Dame Carruthers, her rich voice being of special value in the concerted pieces, while her other numbers were given with telling effect. Mr. W. C. Watkin, as Jack Point, is somewhat handicapped by his height—we are not accustomed to comedians of over six feet in the part—but, all the same, he acted the jester with an excellent appreciation of the humour and pathos that attaches to the character, and he has a capital singing voice. Mr. A. M. Darge brought out the grim humour of Wilfrid Shadbolt with good effect. Mr. John Jamieson, as Colonel Fairfax, made the vocal hit of the production; he was in excellent voice, and all his numbers were deservedly enjoyed. Mr. Robert Watson made a striking Sergeant Meryll; Mr. Nicol A. Paton played Leonard Meryll with good effect; and Mr. D. S. McKelvey spoke his lines with emphasis and point as Sir Richard Cholmondeley. Miss Jean Cunningham, as Kate, ably assisted with the chorus work as well done, despite a little over-eagerness at times; and Mr. Lindsay Harmon, who coached the amateurs, can be congratulated on his share of the success.

SADLER'S WELLS.

On Monday, March 31, the Drama, entitled "UNDER TWO FLAGS." This dramatised version of Ouida's celebrated novel is meeting with great success, being played in the usual finished manner by one of the companies organised by Mr. Fred Baugh and produced under the direction of Mr. H. G. Brandon, who is still the resident stage-manager and producer. Miss Nina Blake Adams heads the company with a charming and fascinating portrait of Cigarette, who won all hearts by her bravery. Mr. Alfred Lutz presented an excellent performance as Bertie Cecil Royellieu; his brother being successfully played by Dan F. Roe as Berkeley Cecil Royellieu. Mr. H. McClelland doubles the parts of Lord Royalin and Marshal of France, both characters being played with great distinction. Mr. Roy Lorraine is good as Lord Rockingham; and Mr. Will Hooke is most amusing as Drake. A very humorous performance of Ezra Baroni is given by Mr. H. Benson, who plays the Jew quite naturally. Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan creates a good impression by his interpretation of Black Hawk; Miss Gertrude Godart was a very good Princess Corona, the Silver Pheasant, her performance calling for special recognition; and Miss Millie Phillips was seen to great advantage as Lady Beatrice Guinevere, and Miss Daisy Carlton was quite successful as Pirella. The staging is admirable. The orchestra renders the incidental music with ability, and excellent pictures are supplied.

A scheme is on foot to erect a memorial to James Burbage, the builder of the first theatre in England, and of his son, Richard, the original impersonator of Hamlet, in St. Leonard's Church, Shoreditch, where they are buried, close to the scene of their early triumphs. Nearly one-half of the necessary sum has already been subscribed, amongst those contributing being the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Birmingham, the Bishop of Southwark, Lady Strachey, the Rt. Hon. John Burns, Sir William Lancaster, Sir George Alexander, Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. Edmund Gosse, Dr. A. W. Ward, Prof. Feuillart, Prof. Bradley, Prof. Hales, Prof. J. Gollancz, Mr. Robert Mond, Miss A. E. F. Horniman, Mr. F. R. Benson, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. J. H. Leigh, Mr. William Peel, the Clothworkers' Company, the Society of West-End Theatre Managers, and the Players' Club.

MOTOR NOTES.

BY "COUNTRYMAN."

Preparing for the Grand Prix.
An unusually attractive scheme has been adopted for the arrangement of the grand stands and the tire pits at the next French Grand Prix race. The two main logs of the course, being almost parallel for nearly a mile at the Amiens end, and only 130 yards apart, will be united by a special cross-road with a cement surface and a slight amount of banking. The main roads have a width of sixteen feet; the cross-road measures twenty-six feet at each end and thirty-six feet along the centre portion. All the land between the two main roads has been purchased by the Racing Board of the French club; thus it is intended to build a permanent cross-road and erect grand stands and offices of an elaborate nature. On the outside of the cross-road will be the two main grand stands, with the Press stand and telegraph office in a central position between the two. Behind these buildings will be the dining hall and refreshment booth, and further to the rear the private and public garages. On the opposite side of the cross-road, and immediately in front of the grand stands, will be the line of tire pits, with the scoreboard behind them, and further in the rear a set of boxes in which the cars will be kept under guard after being filled up with the necessary amount of gasoline for the race. In front of the line of pits there will be a special track on to which the cars can pull for repairs, thus leaving the full thirty-six feet road available for cars going by at speed. The earth dug out of the pits will be carried across the road and dumped on the outside of the cross-road, thus forming a safety zone into which any car can run without danger to the public if it should get out of control. It has not been possible to make a very high banking safe for the highest speeds, but it is calculated that cars can take the bends at fifty miles an hour without any danger. The view from the grand stands will be directly on to the pits and the whole of the cross-road, and also a clear view 700 yards in length on the two main roads approaching and leaving the grand stands. The grandstands, being on the outside of the course, can be reached at any time while the race is in progress, and being only three miles from Amiens and half a mile from a trolley car terminus, immense crowds can be handled with ease. There will be a tunnel under the cross-road opposite the grand stands and a series of foot bridges at various other points will give access to the inside of the circuit while the race is on.

Careful measurement shows that the distance round the course is exactly nineteen miles. It is probable that the cars will have to cover thirty rounds, giving a total distance of 570 miles. On the day following the big car race there will be a motor-cycle race in the morning, and a cycle-car and side-car race in the afternoon. These machines will use a shortened course with the same cross-road, grand stands, and tire pits, the distance round being 10.8 miles. The motor-cycles will cover twenty rounds, or 217 miles, and the three- and four-wheel machines fifteen rounds, or 158 miles. The number of entries is limited to seventy for each race; it is expected that the limit will be reached.

Save the Old Oil.

Many motorists are in the habit of throwing away the oil drained periodically from the crank case when there is really a good use for it in the transmission and differential housings. When the motor is lubricated by a circulating splash system, for instance, it is customary for the owner to open up the drains every month or two and let what oil there is in the crank case run out. The crank case is then rinsed with paraffin and refilled with new oil. The old oil which left the crank case was dirty and charred in appearance, and was apparently of no value.

Oil which has been circulated through the lubricating system of a motor becomes waxy. It is this wax more than anything else that renders it unfit for use in the cylinder, and hence causes the motorist to clean out his crank case. There is seldom, if ever, any gritty deposit left in the oil, especially if the motor be one which has seen a season or more of use; this wax then may be safely stated to be the disturbing element as far as the cylinder goes. The very thing that is required of a lubricant for use in connection with gears is that it possesses sufficient viscosity to adhere to the surface of the gear. The wax in the oil removed from the circulating system renders this oil an excellent lubricant for the various gears throughout the car.

For timing gears it is particularly good, because it has sufficient viscosity to remain between the teeth when the gears are in mesh tightly, and at the same time it can flow rapidly enough to keep its position. The great objection to heavy grease in the timing case, namely, that it is apt to work through the end bearing of the crankshaft and foul the motor, is overcome, and at the same time the required qualifications are there.

Motorists will find that they are cutting down their lubrication bills if they will keep this old oil and mix it with light grease in 1 to 1 proportion for use in the transmission of differential. For the timing gears the oil should be used as it is.

Driving Luxuries Expensive.

With the increase in the price of petrol during the past year, the car owner, who is really concerned in the matter of fuel economy, clamoured for the carburettor-maker to give him a carburettor economical in operation, and also looked to the car-maker to produce a model with a motor of low gasoline consumption, yet few of this same public for a moment turned the spot light on themselves to see if they could in any wise reform their methods of driving and controlling motor speeds whereby less petrol would be consumed.

Much of the extravagance in petrol consumption to-day, for such it can truly be termed with many motorists, rests entirely with the car owner and the driver; rests so much with these two that if more economical carburetors were fitted it is questioned if they would get more than a fraction of the rated economy. Both the owner and driver delight in indulging in what might be called the luxury of the car. They want a machine with quick acceleration. The spectacular enters largely into the driving propensities of many, and few of them realise that they pay dearly for their whistle—it is all done at the expense of petrol, not to mention the many other parts of the car on which quick acceleration exacts its heavy toll. In a word, it is luxury of the car that the owner desires, that the driver indulges in, and yet one in which the motor or carburettor makers are forced to carry the burden of in the form of criticism on fuel extravagance.

But quick acceleration is not the only luxury that owner and driver delight to indulge in. Running so much on a low throttle is an equally important crime. Instead of shifting gears, the throttle is merely closed, the result being that the suction of the cylinders is largely exerted on the petrol-spraying nozzle, and too much petrol is drawn out in proportion to the air entering. Only a fraction of this petrol is actually needed, the remainder in not a few cases going through the motor in a poorly combusted form, and doing its part to aid in carbonising the combustion chamber and valves. There is also a remedy for this, namely, keeping the motor speed up, keeping the throttle at a wider-open position, and shifting

gears more frequently. With the throttle opened more, there is a greater quantity of air entering, and the cylinder suction on the petrol is correspondingly reduced, giving a mixture still over-rich, but yet more nearly approximating the desired proportion for economical running.

If the motorist will only analyse his own action in driving, analyse his methods of acceleration, analyse his methods of driving with regard to amount of throttle opening, and analyse his driving so far as gear-chifting is concerned, he will invariably find that not a little of the unnecessary fuel consumption lies at his own door. He is breeding the luxury in driving that creates the extravagance, and do what he may, the carburettor manufacturer will never be able to obtain that Utopian fuel economy until the driver, the owner, or the owner-driver is willing to do his share in the work.

This luxury in motor-car operation dates back many years, almost to the time when four-cylinder machines made their debut. In those days the high gear demonstration on the steep hill proved the kindergarten for the new driver. His appetite was whetted. He was schooled in avoiding the use of the gear-shift lever, and those elementary courses have, during the intervening years, been succeeded by constant high gear arguments of the salesman and demonstrator, until to-day thousands of owners look upon it as an indication of poor driving if they may have to shift gears on a hill where the car ahead of them on the road makes it on high. It is difficult, well nigh impossible with many, to convince them that it is much preferable to change to lower gears on a hill, and keep the motor speed within its range of desired efficiency and economy. The luxury of driving instilled in the early days has become a habit, and what is more difficult to uproot than a deeply formed habit? Yet it is this very same habit that tends to increase the petrol consumption.

Owners and drivers can do much to solve the fuel economy problem; the carburettor makers must, and will, do their part; the car builders must do their part by reducing weight wherever possible; the road builders are doing theirs; and, lastly, the fuel producers are focussing every effort to alleviate the situation. The fact that there is not any real danger of much increase in the price of petrol during this year should not create a feeling of contentedness in present driving methods. Careless drivers should reform themselves.

THE LONDON DRAMA LEAGUE.

Miss Frances A. McCallum, the hon. sec. (pro tem.) of the newly-formed Drama League, tells us that the League will issue a bulletin to the members from time to time of the plays that the League suggest should be supported. This will be done about a week after the commencement of a play, to allow the whole production to get into swing. The object of the League is to support good and wholesome plays, and, as far as possible, discourage undesirable productions. "The League has been formed quite recently?" "Oh, yes. It has not had its inaugural meeting yet, but we hope to summon that this month."

"About how many members already belong to the Drama League?"

"About 35 active members that we are certain of. The honorary ones include Mr. Forbes-Robertson, Mr. Granville Barker, Mr. Edmund Gwenn. The terms will be: Entrance fee 1s. and 5s. annual subscription for active members. The League does not propose to support any particular manager, producer, actor, or society, nor do they think of dealing with trial, charity, or benefit performances, except under very special conditions."

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

"Dramatic and Musical Law," by Mr. A. A. Strong, LL.B., has reached a third edition, and gives in simple language such parts of the law as relate to subjects with which the profession is concerned.—"The Financier."

Mr. Albert A. Strong's valuable work "Dramatic and Musical Law," published at "The Era" Offices, Tavistock-street, has reached its third edition. The author has made every effort to bring the book right up to date.—"Referee," May 15, 1910.

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—"Star."

Price 5s., post free 5s. 4d. Published at "The Era" Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

On the 19th inst., following the sweeping judgment in the Chancery Division in favour of Argylis, Ltd., last July, the Argylis single sleeve-valve engine was in the Court of Appeal, Royal Courts of Justice, again declared not to infringe the Knight patents. The Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Buckley, and Lord Justice Hamilton, awarded Argylis, Ltd., expenses.

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

Correspondents will please note that it is absolutely necessary that all copy should reach us on Wednesday mornings by first post.

KING'S, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 31, the Drama, "THE CHRISTIAN."

The original version of "The Christian" is being presented here this week by a strong company, headed by, and under the management of, Mr. Derwent Hall Caine. The play is a moving one, and is particularly rich in powerful scenes for the two principal protagonists; while at the same time it presents a graphic picture of certain sides of London life. Mr. Derwent Hall Caine, of course, plays the title-role, and not only uses his fine voice to considerable advantage in the many rhetorical passages falling to his lot, but rises to the emotional requirements of the part in splendid style. Miss Dorothy Stephen made a very vital figure of Glory Quayle, for whom she instantly elicited, and right to the end retained, the sympathy of the audience, and she, too, showed herself very capable of drawing tears. Mr. Ernest K. Nelson was sufficiently sinister in the correct, polished way as Lord Robert Ure. Mr. Edward J. Coyne played Horatio Drake in a manly, straightforward manner. Mr. Walter Meux was dignified and convincing as the ascetic Father Lamplugh. Mr. Albert Eyremond contributed an amusing and artistic impersonation of Archdeacon Wealthy. Three sprightly ladies of the vaudeville stage—Betty, Netty, and Letty—were capably rendered by Miss Lydia Bland, Miss Winnie Morgan, and Miss Elaine Bhagan respectively, and Miss Peggy Rae made a pathetic figure of the ill-fated Polly Love. Miss Lucie Evelyn was very successful as a pleasant old lady from the Isle of Man, one Mrs. Callender, and Miss Margery Mentons gave a racy portrayal of Gloria's maid, Liza. The parts of Brother Paul, the manager of the Philharmonic, and the "Faro King" were efficiently filled by Mr. Arthur B. Hamilton, Mr. Thomas Northcote, and Mr. Leonard Matheson. The play was excellently mounted, and the supers were well drilled.

WIMBLEDON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 31, the Romantic Drama, "WESTWARD HO!"

As children, who was there who did not enjoy the thrilling adventures of Amyas Leigh and the other characters in Charles Kingsley's world-famous novel? And, whether still youthful or grown old, who is there who cannot delight in the vivid recollection of those treasured personages who figure in Miss Peggy Webling's interesting and cleverly conceived play, even though it may not have strictly kept to the glory of the romance? Suffice it that the main characters are there, and that the plot is skilfully maintained in its interest right to the finish. It was pleasant to see so many children present on Monday evening; delightful to witness their thorough enjoyment of the exciting and interesting play. But the play would have been but little except for the splendid performance of every member of the long cast of actors and actresses. Mr. Matheson Lang, it need scarcely be said, was the exact personification of Amyas Leigh, valiant, cheery, buoyant; and one can picture no single actor who could take the part of the true British sailor half, nay, a quarter, so well. But Mr. Lang has done more than arrange to play the leading character himself; he must have been at considerable pains to select so marvellously competent a company, each so well suited to the particular part allocated to them. Miss Hatin Britton, cleverly made up as a half-Indian and half-English girl, Ayacanora, proved her many abilities as an actress of charm and grace. Miss Dorothy Ripley was seen to considerable advantage in the pathetic part of Rose Saltern, known throughout Devon as the "Rose of Torridge." The cast is so lengthy that it is impossible to mention more than a few of those who sustained the various characters, but room must be found to especially refer to the following for the most admirable representation of the parts they played: Mr. Montagu Love, for a quiet, studied performance as Don Guzman de Soto, the villain of the piece, ably abetted in his crimes by Fra Gerardo, the Spanish monk, a particularly well-balanced, clever portrayal; Mr. Basil L. Sydney, who could scarcely have been improved upon as the gallant, love-sick Frank Leigh; Mr. F. Percival Stevens, who was a most amusing gourmand Jack Brimblecombe; Miss Nona Wynne, who as Robin, Sir Richard Grenville's page, contributed not a little to the carrying through of the plot; Mr. Scrope-Quentin as Sir Richard himself; Mr. Henry Stanhope as Mayor Saltern; and all the others. The scenery throughout was especially to be commended.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, March 31, the Play, entitled "EVERYWOMAN."

Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton's company is here this week in the modern morality play, "Everywoman." The story of her pilgrimage in quest of Love, with its sombre and saddening incidents, was followed by a large, interested, and appreciative audience. As this is the actual production direct from Drury Lane there is scarcely any necessity to mention that the staging, dressing, and scenery leave nothing to be desired. In the part of Nobody Mr. Edward Compton has found a rôle perfectly adapted to his powers. His impersonation on Monday was a masterpiece of expressive interpretation from first to last, and enthralled the large audience. Unqualified praise must be bestowed upon Miss May Congdon for her brilliant portrayal of Everywoman. Throughout the play Miss Congdon held her audience firmly, and won hearty applause and many curtain calls. Her dramatic scene with Passion in Act 2 must rank as the gem of the piece. As Beauty, Youth, and Modesty, Miss Beatrice Yaldwyn, Miss Haidée Barry, and Miss Helen Oliver were quietly effective and attractive; and as Truth, Miss Daisy England gave a most intelligent rendering. The beautifully rendered songs of Miss Ruby Vernon as Conscience contributed largely to the success of the piece. Others entitled to praise are Miss Lena Delphine (Greed), Miss Claire Huntley (Self), Miss Margaret Emden (Vanity), Miss Marie Fontaine (Flirt), and Miss Lily Vine (Vice). Mr. Fred. Powell as Wealth rendered capital service, and gains applause for a very praiseworthy assumption. Messrs. William P. Sheen and H. Strangeways-Lesmerre seem absolutely cut out for their respective parts, Stuff and Bluff, theatrical managers, and excellent support was forthcoming from Mr. Henry Barrett as Puff, a press agent. The part of Passion was played by Mr. Mervyn Colomb in excellent fashion, and King Love the First was discreetly embodied by Mr. Gerald Henson. An amusing impersonation of Lord Willits is given by Mr. Frank R. Robertson, and Mr. Geoffrey Wilkinson proved a clever exponent of Flattery. Well defined portraits of Age and Time were contributed by Mr. Richard Cowell and Mr. W. Ewart. Other rôles of a minor character were capably interpreted by Messrs. Augustus Hammond, A. J. Cramer, L. Arthur, and Bates and Hamilton; Miss Alexander, Miss McCarthy, Miss Harland, Miss Viva Garry, Miss Violet Desmond, Miss Gladys Mitchell, Miss Burghley, and Miss Chanley. It would be difficult to improve on the elaborate effects placed on the stage of the Marlborough, exciting wonderment at the lith and easy working, which says much for

the ability of the permanent staff of the theatre, so capably managed by Mr. Murray Herriot. Mr. George Rowlands is manager for the company, and Mr. Augustus Hammond is the very capable stage-manager, the musical arrangements being under the able direction of Mr. Knight Pearce.

THE CORONET.

On Monday, March 31, the Musical Comedy, "THE QUAKER GIRL."

This week the Notting Hill-gate theatre reverts once more to musical fare in the dainty shape of "The Quaker Girl," as expounded by Mr. George Dance's principal company, and a very excellent company it is, too. The libretto and lyrics, by J. T. Tanner, Adrian Ross, and Percy Greenbank, are lively and hitting, and the music by Lionel Monckton is uniformly sparkling and tuneful. Miss Sybil Coulthurst is the dearest, sweetest, demurest little Quaker girl, and even the life of "Gay Paree" is powerless to affect her ingrained modesty, neatness, and discretion. Indeed, she is Prudence by name and by nature. Her singing and dancing are dainty and delightful in the extreme. "The little grey bonnet," "Life is very dull for a Quaker," and "My Tony from America" are among her best vocal efforts, whilst the duet and dance "The good, good girl and the bad, bad boy" with Mr. John T. MacCullum, an agreeable rattle and quite an enterprising, energetic, and refreshing comedian, as Tony Chute, of the American Embassy in Paris, is most quaint, melodious, and catchy. Miss Lily Aline, by her good acting, imparts quite a bit of character to the rôle of the exiled Bonapartist Princess Mathilde, and sings delightfully, and Mr. Hugh Weybridge is a pleasant and polished exponent of the part of Captain Charteris, the King's Messenger. Mr. Cyril Dane enacts the rôle of the profligate Prince Carlo with just the air of distinction and latent naughtiness befitting the character, and which would appeal to those "who hate all vice except its reputation," and his songs, "Come to the ball" and "Coulour de rose," are prime favourites. Miss Olga Morra is lively and amusing as the good-natured Mme. Blum of the Maison Blum, and Miss Maud Denny most attractive as Phoebe, the skittish and knowing lady's-maid, scores considerably with her ditty "Thereabouts," and can display a neat ankle to advantage when it comes to dancing. Jeremiah, the rebellious young Quaker, is played on the lines of broad comedy by Mr. J. W. Hooper, and his one good song, "Not the same as father," is repeatedly encored. Mr. William Ogilvie, who enacts the part of Monsieur Duhamel, Minister of State, satisfactorily, is also stage manager. Mr. Charlton Hutchings causes much amusement as the Chief of Police, whose disguises are always detected by reason of his undisguised limp, and the part of the Parisian actress, Diane, is cleverly played by Miss Elsie Wallace. Mr. Arthur Hayter and Miss Kathleen Haddon have not much to do as the Quaker and Quakeress, but are well in the picture, and Misses Madge Robertson, Dolf Mercer, Jessie Allen, L. Anderson, and Gloria Egmont, among others, help to form a most attractive setting to the piece in their various artistic costumes. The special dances in the last act are capably rendered by Vivienne Trevelyan, Lilian Leigh, and Barrie Baldrick. Mr. Henry Howard, as manager for the company, assists Mr. H. W. Rowland at the front of the house, and the augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. A. Garfield Barratt.

THE FULHAM.

On Monday, March 31, the Play, entitled "DAD."

Mr. Sydney Poulter's smart company, under the direction of Miss Fellowes-Robinson, an enlivening Fulham audience with this lively comedy, adapted for Mr. Cyril Maude from the play by two famous and witty Frenchmen. The piece is well staged and dressed, and the principals are excellent. Mr. Knox Orde is most happily placed as Sir Joseph Lorimer. He plays with a beautifully light touch, and gives a charming picture of that irresponsible gentleman, but not wholly bad, gentleman, and he is able to suggest that subtle charm which, as his friend Carbury says, makes everyone his willing slave. Mr. Frank Lyndon is very good as Carbury, the lethargic, good-natured friend, who gets accustomed to flying hither and thither at the behest of the impetuous Lorimer. He, too, knows how to strike a deeper note with a sure hand, when needed. Mr. George Morgan contributes a powerful study of Lorimer's son, Richard—quiet and bucolic in person and taste, an amazing contrast to his parent. He brings out the depth of the character, and the hidden strength and common sense under the unpromising exterior. Mr. Frank Macrae is excellent in his unassuming presentation of the old parson, Grills, and Mr. Sidons Kemble is satisfactory as Farmer Tregellis. Mr. James Darew is good as the lawyer Vivian; while Mr. Ralph Leon plays the man-servant, James, in the correct, imperturbable manner. Miss Evelyn Carleton is a success in the part of Georgina Cardew. She has personal charm and the art of commanding sympathy, and her bright and clever work was much admired. Miss Gwen Meldrum does what is required as Mrs. Mellich, and Miss Lilian Tudor is a pleasant representative of Jennie Tregellis.

BRISTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 31, the Drama, entitled "NICK CARTER, DETECTIVE."

Messrs. J. Forbes Knowles and Harry Masterman's company are here this week with this well-known, exciting play, which has been so successful in the provinces. Mr. J. Forbes Knowles himself essays the rôle of Nick Carter, and gives a capital study of the acute detective. Miss May Lovett is very pleasing as Madeline, the detective's wife, and little Daphne Grey is sweet and natural as their child, Cyril. A powerful piece of acting is contributed by Mr. Walter Clark as the villain, Eustace, alias Captain Nero. Mr. Harry C. Mombor (Theophilus Timmins), Miss Nellie Shirley as Matilda (his wife), Miss Edith Mantle as their daughter, and Mr. Gerald Henshaw as the latter's "young man" cause plenty of wholesome laughter. Indeed, the four clever artists provide capital low comedy, which the house hugely enjoyed. Mr. William Burgess is good as Dave Crowley, a burglar; while Miss Susie Bevan, Miss Nellie Waddington, Miss F. Kenyon, Mr. Will Ellthorne, Mr. Alfred Sinclair add to the ensemble. The play, which is in four acts, is well mounted and dressed. Mr. William Burgess is the stage-manager and Mr. Frank Thompson the assistant-stage-manager for Messrs. J. Forbes Knowles and Harry Masterman. A very pleasing change is to be seen here next week from drama, Mr. George Edwards' company appearing in "The Merry Widows."

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, March 31, the Drama, entitled "THE SOLDIER PRINCESS."

The fact that Walter Howard is touring this drama is sufficient guarantee that everything is first-class. Cast, scenery, and dresses are all of the best, and the story is most interesting and entertaining, replete with strong situations, and is admirably acted by most capable artists. In the title-rôle, Miss Annie Baker acquires herself most creditably, acting with a charm and grace that are most refreshing, and proving her to be an accomplished and finished artist. Her sword fight with the Crown Prince Nigel very realistic. Mr. Chas. Vane as King Nicolas of Wolsberg gives a very creditable performance, his portrayal being a worthy and highly studied one. Mr. Lional Gade-

den as Nigel, the Crown Prince, is responsible for a most effective portrayal, his knavery and wiles being elegantly worked out. Mr. Jack Fortescue as Prince Leopold, known as Captain Ericson, makes a sturdy and fearless lover, his passages with the Princess and his daring quickly making him a great favourite. Of stately appearance and fine voice he exactly fits the part. Mr. A. B. Mackay as General Swarsberg is seen in a character ably depicted by this capable actor. Colonel Hellenstein, Colonel Reinhardt, Colonel Stalitz are three robust and bluff soldier characters, most realistically portrayed by Mr. St. George Frere, Mr. H. Hill, and Mr. Frank Josephs. Other soldier characters are capably undertaken by Mr. Ralfe Ennal, Mr. W. Walton, and Mr. Ernest Fernley as Captain Gelderman, Captain Wellburg and Captain Geroldsdorf respectively. The humour is furnished by Mr. Geo. Marriott, Jun., as Lieut. Flapp, Mr. Jos. Ellis, Jun., as Lieut. Brissell, Mr. Berkeley Dance as Count Augustus Von Swankstein, Mr. Chas. H. Hughes as Count Adolphus Von Swankstein, Miss Jessica Black as Countess Jane Von Rubenstein, and Miss Ivy Millais as Countess July Von Rubenstein, and these artists are responsible for a liberal and highly entertaining comedy interlude. All the minor parts have most capable exponents. The orchestra, under the direction of the popular Billy Stephenson, plays some most entertaining selections during the acts. The difficult cornet solo, "The Whirlwind Polka," is received with much applause by the audience, and the encores demanded every evening must indeed be very gratifying to Mr. Peter Wilson, the popular soloist. A couple of very entertaining pictures bring to a fitting close a most enjoyable evening.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 31, the Musical Comedy, "A WALTZ DREAM."

Members of Mr. George Dance's company acquire themselves as true artists this week at the Dalston Theatre in the delightful musical comedy, "A Waltz Dream." The music by Oscar Straus, the skilful adaptation of the story by Basil Hood, and lyrics by Adrian Ross please everyone in the audience immensely. The chorus and augmented orchestra are under the direction of Mr. Charles Haase. Mr. J. Noel Leyland is very busy as Lieutenant Niki, consort to Princess Eleanora. Mr. Leyland works hard, and has an able helper in Mr. G. F. Burdett, who plays Lieutenant Monttschi. Mr. Leyland and Mr. Burdett are encored fairly early in the first act for the duet in which the famous waltz tune is first introduced. Miss Mabel Graham, who brings elegance of manner and charm of style to bear as the Princess Eleanora, sings with refreshing clearness. Miss Graham, with Miss Marion Broom, who plays Frederica, chief lady-in-waiting, score early success with the duet, "For ever and evermore." Miss Broom's powerful voice is heard to considerable advantage frequently during the piece. Miss Jessie Bevan, as Franz Steingruber, leader of the Viennese band of lady performers, very prettily allows Lieutenant Niki to make love to her at the Garden Restaurant. She joins so successfully with Lieutenant Niki in the duet, "My dear little maiden," that an encore inevitably follows. Miss Bevan also takes part, with much success, with Mr. Fred Lyne, as Count Lotha, in the duet, "Violin and piccolo." It should be added that Mr. Fred Lyne is much appreciated in the character of Count Lotha, his eccentricities being provocative of much mirth. Joachim XII., Prince of Plausenturn, has an adequately quaint representative in Mr. Reginald P. Rutter, who is decidedly funny all through the performance, but reaches a high altitude of boisterous humour in the Garden Restaurant scene. Mr. Rutter, Mr. Lyne, and Miss Rene Glynnie very successfully render the trio, "Vienna." Miss Rene Glynnie is Fifi, big drum in the band, and enacts the part successfully. Miss Barbara Lea is Hans, the little drum. Mr. Lyne, in the song, "The day when I'm boss of the show," generally secures an encore. Mr. John R. Val, as Max Bamer, is a good knockabout stage walker; Mr. Richard Kay is Herr Kratz, a Minister; Mr. H. F. Neville impersonates Wanda, a maid-domo; Mr. Joseph R. Cunningham is Sigismund, head lackey; and Miss Daisy Yule completes the cast as Emma, a Knelerin. The Viennese Quartette of Dancers appear in an energetic performance in the second act.

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 31, the Musical Comedy, entitled "THE CINGALEE."

Mr. Gore Ouseley has been delighting Woolwich audiences this week with a return visit of the above musical play. None can resist the quaint antics and sayings of Chamuddy Ram, and as played by Mr. Teddie Staples the interpretation leaves nothing to be desired, whether it be in acting, singing, or dancing. He is most ably assisted by Miss Cissy Septon as the pert Peggy Sabine, a teasing, pleasing girl. Mr. Sam Cockridge makes an admirable Harry Vereker, possessing a commanding stage presence and a capital voice and delivery. The pompous Boob-hamba could hardly be in safer hands than those of Mr. Carl Beechey. The peppery Sir Peter Loftus has in Mr. Walter Bridge a very clever exponent, his performance bringing forth rounds of applause and heaps of laughter. Mr. Stanley Liston is well placed as the Indian servant, Myamagh. Mr. Geo. Mudie, Jun., who is well known in Woolwich, scores repeatedly as Bobby Warren, and also acts as stage-manager. Miss Daisy Lake makes a captivating Nanoya, her singing, acting, and dancing being excellent. Miss Hebe Bliss makes the most of her opportunities, and there are many, as Lady "Pat" Vereker. The tea girls, Naitoomo, Myochelli, Sattambie, and Soomo, small but important parts, are safe with Misses Violet Rees, Dora Courtenay, Eileen Brereton, and Maisie May respectively. Special mention must be made of the exquisite dancing of Miss Queenie Lang. The choruses are nicely rendered. Several American "rag-time" items are introduced "Waiting for the Robert E. Lee" being perhaps the most popular. The augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Roland Wood.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 31, the Play, entitled "HINDLE WAKES."

Mr. Stanley Houghton's much-discussed and intensely virile play, "Hindle Wakes," was presented at Kennington Theatre this week for the first time, by Mr. Max Allen's company, and created a profound impression among the large audience which had assembled to welcome it. Mr. Max Allen's production is in the front rank for he has cast the play with rare judgment, and succeeded in permeating it with the genuine Lancashire atmosphere. There is nothing wanting which the author's genius and the producer's skill can suggest to make "Hindle Wakes" a faithful picture of life in industrial Lancashire. As for the moral of the play—if that is the precise term to use—the Kennington audience, judging by its outward manifestations, seemed to be as much divided on that point as every other audience which has witnessed "Hindle Wakes." It vigorously applauded the lofty attitude assumed by Nat Jefferies and Beatrice Farrar, laughed at the flippancy of Sir Timothy Farrar, sympathized with the difficulties of old Chris Hawthorne, and was frankly puzzled by the unrelenting dénouement presented by the resolute re-

fusal of Fanny Hawthorne to marry Alan Jefferies. But apart from all this, as a theatrical performance "Hindle Wakes" was thoroughly successful, and the house on Monday was unattained in its admiration. Miss Helena Walbran was responsible for a remarkably fine study of Fanny Hawthorne, the sturdy Lancashire mill girl, her acting producing a great sense of restrained strength. Mr. Stephen Wentworth's interpretation of the weak-charactered Alan Jefferies was both clever and finished. The Christopher Hawthorne of Mr. Norman Clark was a markedly fine histrionic effort, and instinctively won the sympathies of the audience. Miss Madge Trenchard made a winning and artistic Beatrice Farrar, and Miss Margaret Beck did very well in the small rôle of Ada, the servant. Mr. Ernest Inneson's sketch of the granite Nat Jefferies was magnificently done, and he scored a real personal triumph. Miss Cecile Anson was an interesting figure as Alan's over-fond mother, and Mr. John Cecil made the most of the rôle of Sir Timothy Farrar, the very human Lancashire municipal knight. In the somewhat sinister part of Mrs. Jefferies Miss Kate Osborne displayed unquestionable ability.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 31, the Comedy, entitled "THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST."

Mr. Frank Weatheraby's company proves a pleasing change in this very clever comedy of manners, which never seems out of date, and is always appreciated thoroughly by audiences of refinement. The fantastic humours and epigrammatic speeches are well rendered by all, and Mr. Harold Weston, as John Worthing, quite catches the serious manner so requisite to give complete point to the satirical speeches with which this part abounds. Mr. Julian D'Alric, as Algernon Moncrieff, makes his explanations of the gentle art of "Bunburying" as amusing as ever, and acts with a light touch very suitable to the rôle. Miss May Saker, as the Hon. Gwendoline Fairfax, has a pretty manner, and is well suited to the part; and Miss Maud Kirwan, as Lady Bracknell, is as distinguished and aristocratic in her appearance as she is clear and emphatic in the delivery of her lines. Miss Margaret Boyd is appropriately girlish as Cecily Cardew, Worthing's ward, and enjoys the advantage of a very pretty setting in the scene of the Manor House, with its river and natural garden. As Miss Prism, Miss Dot Seibly is grim and unbending, as becomes a custodian and trainer of youth, and causes unlimited amusement in her scenes with the Rev. Canon Chasuble, a part most satisfactorily played by Mr. Edwin Mervyn. Mr. Harold Barston produces a good impression as Lane, Mr. Moncrieff's man; and Mr. Eric H. Albury is restrained and correct in the part of Merriman, butler to Mr. Worthing.

THE FORESTERS.

On Monday, March 31, the Play, by Rev. A. Myddelton Myles, "THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC."

This cleverly written drama, which was fully reported in last week's issue, is again meeting with great success at this popular East End hall. There are two alterations in the cast: that clever actor, Mr. Albert Ward, now playing the character of Walter Hardford, the local preacher, and Miss Marie McAlunay Cara Marx, the procuress. Mr. Ward's acting of a most difficult part is excellent, the many lengthy and passionate speeches evoking rounds of applause. Miss Marie McAlunay as the villainess has an impressive personality. A word of special praise is due to Mr. Fred Monie for his capital character study of William Blook, the property man, a part that fits him perfectly. Miss C. Walton Hemming is as charming as ever as the beauty, Stella Vincent, her many interesting scenes with Walter Hardford being decidedly enjoyable. Miss Violet Beatrice, Miss Ada Franks, Mr. Alex Wills, Mr. Waton Thornton, Mr. E. Harvey White, and Mr. Fellows Bassett play well the other principal characters. The play is exceptionally well mounted.

THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 31, the Drama, by Robert Provo, entitled "FROM PORTLAND TO LIBERTY."

A novel and very popular attraction is provided here this week by the engagement of the American actor, who elects to be known as "Cunning," in an appropriate piece, "From Portland to Liberty," which serves as an admirable vehicle for the chief character's gaol-breaking propensities. Neither locks, bolts, nor bars can hold the redoubtable Jack Trusdale, whose escapades are a frequent source of wonderment to the audience. In addition to his capital performance as Jack Trusdale, Cunning, at the conclusion of the play, gives an exhibition of his prowess by freeing himself from any kind of manacle or lock-up which members of the audience are invited to provide. Mr. Barlowe Bolland's company all acquit themselves creditably. Mr. Arthur Wingrave strongly emphasises the turpitude of Winston Marlow, and a lesser rascal in Robert Wilson is graphically portrayed by Mr. Almyr Vane. Mr. Arthur Byron is a genial exponent of Barney McGuire, and Mr. Frank Ayrton is always amusing as Tod Small. Mr. F. Lock Whitaker makes the most of his opportunities as Sir James Harrington; Mr. George Benson does well as Dr. Paton; Mr. Charles Enwright is quite suitable as Gov. Hopwood; and Mr. Edward Wynter is an alert Warder Mafrot. Miss Dorothy Richardson is very charming as the self-reliant Nellie Harrington; Miss Florence Lovell is excellent as the good-hearted negress, Mammy Caroline; and Miss Ida Thompson is a vivacious Dot Underwood.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 31, the Play, entitled "THE TURNING POINT."

Mr. Alban B. Limpus and Miss Cecile Barclay's company in this St. James's Theatre success, is proving a strong attraction here this week, the cast being a particularly good one, and the piece being extremely well mounted. Miss Cecile Barclay depicts Monique Felt with much breadth of feeling and artistic restraint, added to an innate charm and attractive personality. Mr. Rupert Lister acts with strength and distinction as Colonel Felt, and is decidedly popular in this prominent rôle. Mr. Charles Fancourt plays very incisively and convincingly as Marcel Beaucourt; the spy, Julius Glogau, is powerfully presented by Mr. F. Owen Chambers; and Mr. Herbert Rea is highly diverting as Bertrand de Maurel. A notable performance comes from Mr. George Barran, who in voice and gesture portrays the kindly Monseigneur Jussey with obvious reality. Stettin is played on sound lines by Mr. Campbell Beaver, and others who do well include Mr. A. Mayne as Henri Cartelle, Mr. Alec Street as Paul Radier, Miss Mary Forrester (an interesting Therese Deniau), Miss Maud Garth (very successful as Yvonne Stettin), and Miss A. Vansittart (a capital Annette).

BROADWAY, NEW CROSS.

On Monday, March 31, the Musical Comedy, entitled "THE SUNSHINE GIRL."

Great crowds are flocking to the popular Broadway Theatre on the occasion of the first visit to New Cross of Mr. George Dance's company in the Gaiety success, "The Sunshine Girl." In the title-rôle Miss Myrtle Devine greatly distinguishes her-

self by her sweet singing, dainty acting and neat dancing. Mr. Theodore Leonard, an old favourite with New Cross audiences, is a most comical little Floot, and the fun is fast and furious whenever he is on the stage. Mr. Jack Morrison acts and sings with indefatigable go and energy as Lord Bicester, and his dancing is excellent. Miss Winifred Volt makes a fascinating and clever Marie Silvine, and her songs and dances with Mr. Leonard are loudly encored. Mr. Percy Cahill contributes a character sketch of unusual merit as the old sea dog, Commodore Parker; Miss Jennie Richards is richly humorous as Brenda Blackie; and Miss Dorothy Cooper distinguishes herself as the aristocratic Lady Rosabelle Merrydew. Mr. Richard Saker is excellent as Hodson, and Mr. Charles McCann is good as Stepeyack. Miss Marie Leyland as Emmeline is responsible for a tuneful number in the second act. Mr. Harry Benthall does all that is possible with the character of Vernon Blundell. The other rôles are all in good hands. The scenery is very bright and attractive. The principal numbers are loudly redemanded, especially the well-known political quartette and dance, "The boss of the show." There is a large chorus, which works energetically and successfully throughout the evening. Mr. Albert Vernon is the able musical conductor, while Mr. George Mudie, Jun., is the courteous and efficient acting-manager for Mr. George Dance.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, March 31, the Play, entitled "QUEEN OF THE REDSKINS."

After a successful run in the provinces, this popular romantic play has returned to town, and obtained a cordial reception at this well-known suburban house. The hero is one Broncho Bill, a cowboy, a son of a wealthy Montreal merchant, who eschews the more civilised life of Canadian society for that other and more adventurous life of the plains, and Mr. Walter H. Wilson is to be congratulated on his manly and very human portraiture as the lover of Wahnestah, the queen of the redskins. The title-rôle is in the capable hands of Miss Laura Walker, and the picturesque part suits her style admirably. Mr. Caspar Middleton, as George Lyndhurst, gives a vigorous rendering of a part which is dead against the audience, for no "queen" could have had a more brutal husband. Mr. Theodore Kelly makes an ideal wealthy settler, and the part of William Lyndhurst fits him like a glove. Sambo is a mere nigger, and a very humorous one, and as played by Mr. Clarence Ibbotson the audience laughs heartily with him. Little Queenie, Wahnestah's child, is patiently and pathetically interpreted by little Miss Phoebe Brady, whilst Miss Agnes Webster's performance as Julia, just a faithful maid, helps materially. The character of Olive, the young and intriguing wife of old Mr. Lyndhurst, is cast in no sympathetic mould, but Miss Flora Leslie succeeds in getting the best out of her opportunities. Minor parts are capably played by Messrs. Fred W. Leonard, Lionel Moore, Frank Brady, George Davis, and Miss May Morn. Miss Emma Litchfield, the writer of the play, has done well, she has given us new situations and new thrills. The play is well mounted and dressed.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 31, the Play, entitled "MAN TO MAN."

Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Clifford Bown's company is paying its first visit to this theatre with William Bourne's famous play, "Man to Man," which is being received with considerable enthusiasm by Mr. Andrew Melville's audiences. The piece is staged effectively, and is well represented by a very capable company. As the hero, George Gordon, Mr. Stanley Vine acts with earnestness and natural effect. For unadulterated villainy Richard Ellerton cannot be beaten, especially as portrayed by Mr. Dennis Clyde. Mr. Bruce Williams obtains all the humour possible from the character of Samuel Plumtree, which he plays with success. Matthew Ellerton is ably represented by Mr. Henry Holland, and Mr. Chas. Stacey does particularly well as the Rev. Philip Ormond. Welcome light relief comes from the clever business and by-play of Mr. Clifford Bown as Bull Burkle, a part he has performed considerably over 3,000 times. The touching part of the youthful forger, Ned Doyle, finds an able exponent in Miss Kathleen McMahon. Mr. Robert C. Ryder (Forde), Mr. J. Halston Crimmins (Turner), Mr. Allen Hudson (Roger), and Mr. George Newton (Martin) all render able assistance. Miss Beatrice Hone as Ethel Maythorne gives a most sympathetic and emotional impersonation of the much-tried heroine, which she plays with warmth of feeling and no little effect. Miss Hone has a sense of the dramatic which she employs to the best advantage. Miss Agnes Kingston is to be congratulated on her assumption of Gipsy Madge, her portrayal throughout being excellent. Miss Lilian Murray scores a success in the part of Miss Lavinia Dove, and Miss Alice Newton gives a pleasing impersonation of Mary. The entire cast are agreeably filled by the programme of music arranged by Mr. Harold Montague. Mr. J. Hindle Taylor is as attentive and courteous as ever in receiving visitors in front.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, WINDSOR.

On Monday, March 31, the Musical Play, entitled "THE GIRL IN THE TRAIN."

"The Girl in the Train" was welcomed here on Monday night by a large and appreciative audience. This popular musical success is being played here this week by Mr. Herbert Randall's well-chosen combination. The company is an excellent one all round, and present the piece with delightful charm, and the play is finely staged and dressed. Mr. Claude Cameron plays with humour and skill in the leading rôle of President Van Eyck, and keeps up a running fire of witty remarks. Karel Van Buren is realised with admirable tact by Mr. Bertram White, his pleasing voice enhancing the value of a fine performance. Mr. Walter Wicklow gives a rollicking and humorous portrayal of Cornelius Scrop, a restaurant car conductor. Mr. Raft Porter distinguishes himself greatly as Lucas Van Troomp. Mr. Claude Hogg plays Councillor Van Lieje with excellent effect. Mr. Barry Rayne gives a careful and convincing reading of Councillor Van Dender. Willem Tronjes is in the capable hands of Mr. Edward Owen; and Mr. Howard Read is highly realistic as the Usher of the Court. Miss Violet Rangdale is a fascinating Gonda Van der Loo, a part she plays in a charming manner, and she further distinguishes herself for excellent vocalisation and dancing. An actress whose work leaves a very pleasant impression is found in Miss Winifred Dunkley, who is dainty and impressive in all she undertakes. Miss Elsie La Barthe, besides proving an accomplished vocalist, acted brightly as Martje Kronwievelt. Adeline has a fine exponent in Miss Lily Henry; and Miss Lilian Renad does useful work as Arlette. Others noticeable for good work are the Misses B. Bradford, L. Carrington, J. Darrell, M. Edwards; also Messrs. H. Mitchell, P. Creasy, G. Gordon, H. Thompson, S. Cuthbert, etc. A feature is the zig-zag glide, which is introduced in Act II., by permission of the Star Music Publishing Company, and is well done. An excellent performance of the orchestral portions is secured from the largely augmented orchestra under Mr. J. Nabarro. A good chorus also works well; the stage management is under the watchful eye of Mr. Walter Wicklow; and the general manager is Mr. Bertie Rickard.

THE IRISH PLAY REVIVAL.

"In these days," wrote Mr. George Lowther in a recent number of the "Oxford and Cambridge Review," "when many intelligent people think poetry unnecessary and irrelevant to the problems of the day, the study of verse has come to be regarded generally as a rather poor amusement, or at the best as a luxury one has no time for; no fit pursuit for keen and masterful minds. But the world is always waking up to discover that it has been 'spending its money for that which is not bread and its labour for that which satisfieth not.' There are signs of such a reawakening now, and it is time that the boldest claims were asserted for poetry and the things of the imagination."

"The most eager impulse of revival has come from Ireland. It has come characteristically in the fugitive form of a restoration, first of a beautiful, reticent mythology telling of Aengus and Etain and Maeve, and then of an imaginative peasant life. Neither of these things would seem calculated to bring back poetry from its position of toleration only to one of honour as presiding at the birth of every soul of man. But it has been vigorous enough to awaken the sleeping imagination of many Englishmen, and to help to some sort of hearing writers to whom the spirit has given utterance 'in other tongues,' and who are striving for a restoration of the temple of poetry upon deeper foundations. This endeavour is still young and in need of the support of every one who believes there are things of greater moment than aeroplanes and tariff reform."

"In his brief preface to the 'Tragedy of Nan,' Mr. Masfield remarks that every man who makes a sincere attempt at tragic drama is helping the genius of the race to produce the great dramatist. This has always been so in the great periods of art. An influence has been magically communicated to many minds like the lighting of the stars, point by point, till they are made pale by the rising moon. These periods were Pentecosts, every one of them, when the cloven feet descended upon many gathered in one devotion and one quest. And if their companies were broken and dissolved in darkening years like that round table which was squandered upon the Grail, their passing was only as the passing of seasons presently to be renewed."

"Contentment with scientific answers to the questions of experience, answers which were mostly negations, marked the passage of the nineteenth century. Men were led in due course to spend their energies in perfecting scientific development, in making of the world an efficient economic machine. Poetry had wandered, dwindling, into a shallow, sandy bed with no current but an enfeebled, city-bred passion. Some religious impulse was necessary to deepen it and give it power to fertilise the age. No masterful river could be delved out by the precocities of Wilde or the fevers of Dowson."

"A new current was furnished by the Irish revival, which will be carried on, if our poets are modest and disinterested enough, by a revival in England. The secret of the vitality of this movement is Blake's idea of the religion of art which Mr. Yeats expounds in his 'Ideas of Good and Evil.' This idea was at the roots of the Pre-Raphaelite movement and it was the impulse of the best work of Ruskin. But in the Irish school it was developed from an attempted rejuvenation of a superseded, albeit beautiful and chastening mythology, and an outlook but dimly lit by stray beams of Christianity and generally pagan. In this twilight of the gods we find the work of Synge enfolded."

"The revival was really a revival of poetry and of lyrical poetry in especial; but since people were growing more and more indifferent to lyrical poetry it was popularised by means of the theatre. The new poets adopted as their chief vehicle the prose drama."

"Synge's notion of his art is set forth with definiteness in his fresh, vigorously turned prefaces, and perfectly borne out and illustrated in the plays. 'The drama is made serious,' he says, 'not by the degree in which it is taken up with problems that are serious in themselves, but by the degree in which it gives the nourishment, not very easy to define, on which our imaginations live.' He points out that Ibsen is old-fashioned (just as all hyper-modern, up-to-date people are old-fashioned); and he frankly owns himself unconcerned with 'problems.' This is because he knows that problems are really phantasms which vanish before the rays of imaginative vision. 'A dangerous doctrine, and a dreamer's,' objects the practical man. True, but not so dangerous as the abyss of materialism. Here, if you will, is the quag, the deep ditch; but the pilgrim found a safe passage between them. It is to be noted that Synge at the same time claims 'seriousness' for his plays, as they provide, not drugs or stimulants, but that spiritual nourishment by which and 'not by bread alone' the children of men live."

"Again he says that in a play 'every speech should be as fully flavoured as a nut or apple.' And so it is in these plays. His great achievement is his style in the sense in which Pater used the word. His eye is constantly for abundance and fineness of expression. With all the abundance and splendour of his language there is no surplusage, no lack of control. He was master of a rich and racy idiom, which makes him a delight to read apart from his subject, just as Newman, for example, lights up a dull matter with the fascination of his style. How grandly arrogant and conscious of all this Synge shows in the preface to 'The Playboy' will be kept alive by its jubilant extravagance of speech which is the expression of an abounding, if not intense, vitality. There is an intoxication in the rush of words with which Christie woos Pegeen in the third act."

"It's little you'll think if my love's a poacher's, or an earl's itself, when you'll feel my two hands stretched around you, and I squeezing kisses on your puckered lips, till I'd feel a kind of pity for the Lord God in all ages sitting lonesome in his golden chair."

"And again—
"If the mitred bishops seen you that time, they'd be the like of the holy prophets, I'm thinking, do be straining the bars of Paradise to lay eyes on the Lady Helen of Troy, and she abroad, pacing back and forward, with a nosegay in her golden shawl."

"Synge's plays occupy a peculiar place in our literature. Essentially they are lyrical rather than dramatic. In the ideal drama the writer's mind is projected upon his characters so that every speech is dramatic, i.e. an inevitable part of the action, of the inter-relationship of the persons. The play forms one organic whole; no part can be removed without marring the structure. The essence of a lyrical poem on the other hand is that it is a spontaneous, personal utterance, simple and complete in itself, not a member of an organic body as are the speeches of a drama. In form the speeches of these plays of Synge are dramatic and in prose. But if that dubious phrase, 'prose-poetry,' is ever applicable, it might be applied here. Every speech is self-contained like a stanza, or better like a separate bead in a string of lyrical poems."

"To Synge the drama had no concern with passion. To many of us it is hardly too much to say that it has no concern with anything else. The other elements are accessory; the working of passion is the characteristic element which makes drama. It is this warring of passions presented by the drama which gives it such unique power to stir the depths of human nature, and of passion in this modern sense there is little or none in

these plays. In spite of all the homely phrases and the human thoughts they are endowed with, one cannot rid oneself of the notion that the persons are embodied spirits, some of the Sidhe perhaps, clad in human weeds, but betraying their natural origin beneath the every-day words. They are too irresponsible and their dolours are too inconsequence to make pure drama, which needs the interest of stable human passions. You cannot make true drama out of the caprices of fairies. Shakespeare introduced the jealousies of the fairy king and queen into one of his comedies, but he built his drama out of the inconstancy of Demetrius and Helena's fidelity."

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the council meeting, held at 32, Regent-street, on Tuesday, April 1. Present: Mr. F. J. Arton, in the chair; Mr. H. W. Mole (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Adam Sprange, J. Benedict Butler, Douglas Munro, Arthur Dennis, C. F. Collins, W. G. Fay, Fredk. James, Mr. Moncrieff, John Mortimer, Clarence Derwent, and D. Young (secretary).

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th ult. were read and confirmed. The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Donald R. Young with reference to the Actors' Association Booth at the Actors' Orphanage Garden Party, and the secretary was instructed to acknowledge receipt and say that the matter was in the hands of the committee.

The Secretary read a letter from Mrs. Rose Mathews, thanking the council for reinstating her a member of the Association.

A letter was read from a member complaining of the theatres at two provincial towns with regard to the means of escape of artists in case of fire. The secretary received instructions to write to the managers of the theatres pointing out the deficiencies, and also to the licensing authorities.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. A. J. Austin, asking the council to acquaint him with their schemes for the Booth, as they were anxious to go to Paris, also letters from several members of the Association proffering their help, and was instructed as to replies.

The Hon. Solicitor reported on five cases. The Secretary reported that a manager had taken up his I O U's and discharged his debts.

The Finance Committee's report and the House Committee's report were read by Mr. Sprange and adopted.

The Secretary read letters from members offering their names to form a repertory company, and, after discussion, he was instructed to reply that the council regret that, on the advice of the hon. solicitor, it is not in their power to form a company.

Messrs. Arton, John Mortimer, Ben Webster, William Devereux, Douglas Munro, W. G. Fay, and Fredk. James were elected as members of the Actors' Association Booth Committee, with power to add to their numbers.

Elections: Christian Morrow, Julian D'Albie, Archibald McCaig. Reinstatements: Rose Mathews, Alice Chapin. Nominations: Irene Hentschel, F. Reginald Bach.

THEATRICAL LAW.

ACTION BY MR. HAMMERSTEIN.

Before Mr. Justice Bray, Mr. Oscar Hammerstein sued Messrs. Keith, Prowse, and Co., in the King's Bench Division, on Tuesday, claiming £519, the balance alleged to be due in respect of the sale of seats at the London Opera House, Kingsway, the defendants having guaranteed the sale of £2,250 (gross) worth of tickets for the twelve weeks' season, commencing April 22, 1912. The defendants pleaded that the terms upon which they gave the guarantee in question had not been fulfilled by the plaintiffs.

Mr. Scott Fox, K.C., and Mr. Raymond E. Negus appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. Holman Gregory, K.C., and Mr. W. A. Jowitt for the defendants. Mr. Scott Fox, opening the case, said that during the winter season of 1911-12 there had been a more or less successful run of opera at the London Opera House, which had been erected by Mr. Oscar Hammerstein at considerable expense. There had been no specific contract between the plaintiff and the defendants, the latter having sold the seats on the ordinary terms. The summer season on which Mr. Hammerstein had decided was an experiment—hence the suggestion was made that the defendants should guarantee the sale of a certain number of tickets.

For the purpose of showing what kind of season Mr. Hammerstein had in contemplation, a subscription prospectus, continued counsel, was forwarded to the defendants containing a repertoire of operas. The substantial dispute between the parties was as to whether the repertoire as it appeared in this prospectus should have been carried out to the letter. Counsel suggested that it was not, but that Mr. Hammerstein should do what he considered best under the different circumstances which might arise. The letter containing the defendants' guarantee was written on April 3. The takings for the twelve weeks averaged about £1,000 per week, and it was not until July that the defendants made any objection. After correspondence had passed between the parties on the subject, the present action was instituted.

Evidence taken on affidavit of the gentlemen who carried on the negotiations with defendants on behalf of Mr. Hammerstein was read.

Mr. Ralph Le But, general manager to Mr. Hammerstein, said that either himself or Mr. Andrews was seeing the defendants every week, but down to the last week of the season no objection was raised by anyone on behalf of the defendants as to the absence of matinees, or as to Mr. Hammerstein's lack of judgment in reproducing such opera as he did, or failing to produce operas which were in his repertoire. About three operas were rehearsed, but not produced, as Mr. Hammerstein considered his artistes unsuitable. Seeing that six operas were being given every week, one every night, the matinee idea was accordingly dropped, as well as the Sunday evening concerts. The artistes could not have been worked longer than they were.

Mr. William Henry Dunn, accountant to the plaintiff, said that the takings for the twelve weeks amounted to just over £12,000. In addition to that, there were subscriptions which came to about £8,900, bringing the total receipts up to £21,000.

Mr. Jowitt pointed out that at the time the contract was entered into it was stated that matinees would be given. As a matter of fact, matinees were a part of the contract, and in guaranteeing close upon £2,000 worth of tickets the defendants were relying on matinees being given, in view of the fact that many of the operating public lived a considerable distance away.

The hearing was adjourned.

Mr. C. H. Workman, happily recovered from an attack of influenza, has resumed his part in the merry musical play, "The Girl in the Taxi," at the Lyric Theatre.

Mr. Fred Tooze, owing to the sudden death of his father, was unable to appear as Stephen Baird in Mr. Allan Aynesworth's "Ready Money" company at the Princess Theatre, Manchester, on Wednesday.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS LAURIE LINDSLEY.

Previous to her successful stage career, Miss Laurie Lindsley studied singing at the London College of Music, and afterwards became a pupil at d'Aubon's Academy of Dancing. Her first engagement was in "Amorelle," at the Comedy Theatre. Miss Lindsley next played Miss Carrie Moore's part in "The Cingales" with great success, making a particular hit in the "Devi Dance" which was a feature of the second act. During the run of this piece she made a special study of the art, and at the termination of her engagement undertook a dancing part in "The Spring Chicken."

Whilst appearing as a solo dancer in "The Girls of Gottenberg," Miss Lindsley scored a triumph during the second week of the run. The curtain had already risen when she entered the theatre and was surprised to find the stage-manager waiting for her with a look of anxiety on his face. He informed her that both the leading lady and her understudy were indisposed, and begged her to play the part of Mitzi, of which she had never even seen the script. With characteristic enthusiasm Miss Lindsley accepted, and rushed to her room to dress. Owing to her wonderful powers of observation and remarkable memory, she went through her performance without once being prompted, and was greeted with the warm thanks of the management and the congratulations of the company at the fall of the curtain.

As Miss Lindsley showed herself capable of succeeding in a style of part to which she had so far been un-



MISS LAURIE LINDSLEY.

accustomed. She gave a charming impersonation of the jolly little Dutch girl, and her clog-dancing was altogether delightful. During her performance of Miss Lindsley was offered an engagement to play Eileen Cavanagh in "The Arcadians," her success in which proved that the astute manager was not mistaken in his judgment.

Miss Lindsley is never so happy as when practising dancing, and is to be found on the stage every morning trying some new step or improving on one of her dances, all of which she arranges herself.

THE ENTERPRISE OF QUINLAN.

Our contemporary, "South Africa," writes thus of Mr. Quinlan's enterprise in the Colonies: Two years ago there were those who did not hesitate to tell Mr. Quinlan that his idea of touring England and the Colonies with grand opera was a quixotic enterprise, with absolutely no chance of an artistic or financial success. The young Irish impresario, however, stuck to his guns, and accomplished a feat never before attempted. A sequel of the first world tour's success is the promise that throughout the forthcoming second tour of Africa and Australasia, Wagner's gigantic cycle, "The Ring of the Nibelung," will be presented for the first time. This is the greatest event which the musical community have ever been asked to support. The event synchronises with the centenary of Wagner's birth, and as every centre which claims to call itself musical may be supposed to be anxious to celebrate the event in appropriate fashion, South Africa will be given a unique and substantial opportunity of marking the centenary in an entirely worthy way.

It is, of course, a courageous thing to undertake the production of so stupendous a work as "The Ring" without a guarantee fund. But Mr. Quinlan lives upon his courage, and he is relying solely upon local interest in, and appreciation of, art and music to make his enterprise successful. The chief barrier to the production of "The Ring" is the inevitable expense entailed, for it must be done well, or left alone altogether. And as few modern theatres are large enough to accommodate audiences big enough to enable the prices of seats to be kept down to the level of ordinary theatre rates, it necessarily follows that a performance of "The Ring" cannot, on financial grounds, make the widespread appeal that it otherwise would. The production should be an epoch-making event, for Mr. Quinlan has proved conclusively that he does nothing that he does not do well, and particularly the Wagnerian performances given during his last visit showed that he appreciated the vital importance of Wagner especially being performed in the superlative style. "The Ring" performances, we may be sure, will match Mr. Quinlan's highest achievements, and one hopes that South Africa will show a full appreciation of this enterprise.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

"Dramatic and Musical Law," by Mr. A. A. Strong, LL.B., has reached a third edition, and gives in simple language such parts of the law as relate to subjects with which the profession is concerned.—"The Financier."

Mr. Albert A. Strong's valuable work "Dramatic and Musical Law," published at "The Era" Offices, Tavistock-street, has reached its third edition. The author has made every effort to bring the book right up to date.—"Referee," May 15, 1910.

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—"Star."

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THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA SEMAINE FOLLE."

Comedy in Four Acts by Abel Hermant, Produced at the Athénée on March 28.
Féodora Mlle. Ventura
Clotho Mlle. Devimeur
La Duchesse d'Anceis Mlle. André
Juliette Mlle. Rose Grane
Julie Mlle. Barbet
Kamensky M. André Brulé
Marquis de Mauvière M. de Férandy
Siméon M. Guyon fils
Arthéniev M. Paylagarde
Rodriguez M. Cuelle
Gustave M. Gallet

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Thursday, April 3.—Marriage, according to M. Abel Hermant, strikes the death-blow to love, an opinion shared by many farce writers, one of whom showed us a divorced husband dancing with joy when his ex-wife married his rival, calling out: "Now 'his' punishment will begin!" But M. Hermant is not a vaudevillian, and his new venture deals with the love and jealousy of a Russian prince and princess, husband and wife, who make the, to them, startling discovery that it is the marriage tie that hindered their love, and who are beaming with joy when they realise that they can realise their lives as lovers, after the classical fashion of the heroes and heroines of the romantic past. Prince Kamensky has lost his heart to his mother's companion, and made her his wife. Like a true aristocrat Muscovite, he has initiated her into the most dissipated pleasures, and then, having grown sick of the lady, has quietly walked away after having settled a vast fortune upon her. The two were bound to meet, and they do meet at a masked ball in Venice, where the lady has made an appointment with an unknown Frenchman. This the Russian prince does not like, and he grows mortally jealous. From that moment the prince and the princess are constantly running after one another, he jealous like an Othello, she loving, but cross, until they finally meet at Torcello, where they violently voice their love and hate. The scene closes with an excellent stage effect, when the prince sadly follows the princess, in the gathering darkness, to the boat that is to take them back to Venice. And in the last act, at the Hotel Danieli, we see them embrace each other passionately and agree to become lovers. The "tango" has now become the fashionable dance here in Paris, and it therefore was not surprising that the author should have introduced it in his play, danced to perfection by Mlle. Devimeur and M. Cuelle in a trifle realistic but artistic manner. Mlle. Ventura scored a genuine success as the tempestuous and fascinating princess, and M. Brulé impersonated the prince with his usual tact and skill. The minor rôles were also very well held.

"LA CHASTE SUZANNE."

Vaudeville Opéra, by Antony Mars and Maurice Desvallières, Produced at Apollo on March 29.
Suzanne Mlle. Bella-Alkins
Delphine Mlle. Narquet
Jacqueline Mlle. Nina Serge
Rose Mlle. Linder
Hubert M. Defreyne
Des Aubrays M. Tréville
Alexis M. Frey
"La Chaste Suzanne" is the French adaptation of "The Girl in the Taxi," which has returned to its native country, inasmuch as the English authors have taken their plot from a farce by Meilhac. The Apollo Theatre seem to have struck oil with their new venture, which promises to win as great a triumph in Paris as its English counterpart is doing in London. MM. Antony Mars and Desvallières, experienced authors, have imparted to their adaptation the requisite French atmosphere, and the complications, cleverly introduced, delighted the audience, who also appeared to relish the bright music. The work, moreover, is very well mounted, and many scenes were heartily applauded, especially the one in which the people in M. and Mme. Aubrays' house leave late at night, each with a little electric torch to light the way in the dark. This struck the audience as something novel, especially as it supplied a capital occasion for much funny by-play. Mlle. Bella-Alkins may be complimented on the manner in which she played the part of Suzanne. Bright and clever, she won golden laurels. As René Boissière, M. Tirmont evoked warm and well-deserved applause. M. Tréville, one of our best actors, supplied a capital sketch of the Baron des Audrais, and the rest of the company also did very well.

The Théâtre des Capucines has changed its programme, and given us a new revue, "Et Patati et Patata," by M. Georges Nanteuil. In Paris, if a revue is not "rosse" (in English, "spiteful"), it is considered tame, and M. Nanteuil, therefore, had to introduce the requisite quantity of stinging criticisms. Good M. Astruc received his dose, so did M. Sacha Guitry, so did M. Lépine, the prefect of police, so even did our honoured President, M. Poincaré, who comes in for his share of chaff because he sold the horses which his predecessor, M. Fallières, had bought. But, according to the author, nobody could find fault with M. Poincaré for having cleared the stable of "the old omnibus horses" which had the honour of drawing M. and Mme. Fallières on State occasions.

The great theatrical event in Paris has been the opening of the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, built and managed by M. Astruc. It is a magnificent house, with a superbly decorated hall, excellent seating accommodation, affording an equally satisfactory view of the stage from every part of the house. There are easy entrances and exits, wide corridors, practical cloak-rooms, lifts—everything, in fact, that give comfort to the audience. There is a salon-boudoir for ladies, and a smoking bar—not yet ready—which is to be decorated by Sem, the famous caricaturist. The first work produced, probably as a compliment to French music, was Berlioz's "Benvenuto Cellini," a very old-fashioned work, which, when brought out in 1838 at the Paris Opera, proved a dismal failure. The audience this time did not take kindly to the work, and it is a pity M. Astruc should have selected this really dull opera.

Great interest is already being shown in the coming opera season at Covent Garden, and the booking for the two cycles of the "Ring" to be given under the direction of Herr Arthur Nikisch is exceptional, the general subscription being larger than ever. As all the operas in the series, except "Das Rheingold," begin in the afternoon, an interval for dinner of about an hour and a half will be arranged after Act II. Instead of between Act I. and II., as in previous years. "Das Rheingold" will be given on April 22 and 30, "Die Walküre" on April 23 and May 1, "Siegfried" on April 25 and May 3, and "Götterdämmerung" on April 28 and May 6.

Next week "The Marriage of Columbine," a comedy in four acts, by Harold Chapin, will be staged at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester. This play was produced by the Play Actors in London about three years ago, Miss Sybil Thorndike playing the same part then as she does in this production. "The Marriage of Columbine" was Mr. Chapin's first full-length play, and attracted the attention of Mr. Barrie, Mr. William Archer, and others to Mr. Chapin as a coming writer. Owing to the great success of "The Whispering Will," it has been decided to play it for another week, commencing April 11.

NATURE THEATRES.

All over Central Europe, especially in Germany and Austria, says the "Lady's Realm," are being run up modest stages with natural or architectural backgrounds; and here real actors are being taught to play real plays with only God's scenery about them, and are making such progress that they threaten to drive the regular theatres out of business. This is part of the new movement toward garden cities, toward villa colonies, air-baths and sun-baths, regenerative reaction from the town, from the drink-saloon and the dancing hall.

Business as well as the ideal is urging Europe towards what is known as the Nature Theatre. In Central Europe most professional playhouses are in a bad way; in Berlin and Vienna good theatres make small profits or none; and the German provincial theatres, once Europe's best, are threatened with ruin. The cause is partly a debasing of taste; but it is partly a moral and humanising cause. The man of ignoble taste still patronises the cheap and nasty Continental theatre, and this continues to pay; but the man of elevated mind now rarely goes to any theatre at all. The result is that the dramatic and managerial talents which went to make the better sort of theatres are seeking a substitute. They want something which will preserve dramatic art; and appeal at the same time to the masses of men and women, without whose interest art is in vain.

The Provençal poet Mistral, the Swiss Lorenz, and the German Wachler, are the creators of the Nature Theatre. Mistral led by producing open-air drama in Hadrian's restored theatre at Orange in the French department of Vaucluse. Being essentially a return to classical ways, the Nature Theatre from the first was soaked in the classical tradition. After Mistral, the next great figure is Robert Lorenz. Lorenz was won to the movement through seeing the Hans Sachs Minnesinger representations at Halle. He first made some production experiments at Hohenwilt in Württemberg. Next he produced the "Bride of Messina" with a chorus of 500 persons in the ruins of the Roman Theatre at Vindonissa, now Windisch, in the Swiss Canton of Aargau. The chorus was local. This initiative had great success, and led to the creation of a permanent Nature Theatre under Lorenz's direction at Lucerne.

Lorenz is the head of the section of the Nature Theatre propagandists who reject "the local idea." This "local idea" is that the open-air theatre in each district should play mainly pieces of local origin, and which illustrate local traditions, history, and customs. According to this theory the spectators and artists and dramatists are one and interchangeable. The Nature Theatre thus becomes a fosterer of local patriotism. Carried to extreme, the theory means that every village shall have its Nature Theatre, and shall think more of local art and interest than of world art.

The exponent of this type of Nature Theatre, and the most successful Nature Theatre manager in Germany, is Dr. Ernst Wachler, of Weimar. Dr. Wachler is forty, and comes of a famous German family. He is an editor, publicist, poet, and dramatist, and has marked talent and individuality. It was he who initiated and still manages the Harz Mountain Theatre. When Dr. Wachler suggested his mountain theatre people laughed at him, and a cartoonist drew a funny picture of a tired climber with an alpenstock arriving at the summit of a hill, and asking for beer, to be told only, "We have no beer, but have tickets for 'Wilhelm Tell.'" Dr. Wachler stuck to his guns, and his mountain theatre is now in being. It is built at Thale in the finest part of the Harz Mountains. The seats for one thousand two hundred are arranged on the natural amphitheatre of "The Witch's Dancing Place." The stage consists of beaten earth on a foundation of rubble, and the scenery of a few bushes and trees. There is no roof and there is no curtain; but lately a small covered auditorium has been built close by for use in case of rain.

Dr. Wachler's Mountain Theatre is the most successful in Germany so far. It has proved capable of producing both local and general plays. It plays sometimes Dr. Wachler's own plays; has staged new plays by other Germans, including first productions, and has a large repertoire of the classical drama. Its great triumphs are "A Midsummer Night's Dream"—the favourite of all Nature Theatres—Schiller's "Wallenstein," and Hebbel's "Moloch." It lately made the experiment of producing Klopstock's forgotten "Battle of Arminius." This had never been played in any German theatre. About one hundred and forty years ago Klopstock wrote that his ambition was to have the "Battle of Arminius" played on a mountain in the Harz, and through Dr. Wachler his ambition was at last fulfilled.

Dr. Wachler finds great obstacles against his dream of making the Nature Theatre "local." It is always possible to get the local stage, and some local performers; also every spot in Europe has enough history and tradition to supply it with dramatic inspiration. The difficulty is to get the dramatic talent. In the attempt to realise the "local" idea the theatre element which ought to be foremost is submerged in the folk-art element, and there is a danger that nothing will result except disguised lectures on history and customs.

This danger is recognised by Lorenz, who holds that the Nature Theatre should be universal in its appeal; and in his Nature Theatre near Lucerne he has realised his ideal. Lorenz thinks that the stage and scenery of a Nature Theatre should be merely architectural. There should be no attempt at providing the illusion of reality; therefore, no scenery is desirable. A few simple buildings supply all the background needed. On this principle is arranged the Lucerne theatre, which is built on the Hexenstein Peninsula, about twenty minutes by steamer from the town. The stage is merely a flat meadow, thirty-seven yards by twenty-one; with the towering Rigi behind it. On this meadow side by side, with short spaces between, rise a temple, a hall of columns, and a tower, all made of solid material, and permanent in construction. The three buildings are used for different scenes, and Lorenz boasts that they are enough for almost any play. He proves this by producing a long series of classical works, including the "Bride of Messina," "Edipus," "Goethe's 'Iphigenia and Tasso,'" "Medea," "Grillparzer's 'Sappho,'" "The Death of Empedocles," Hebbel's "Ring of Gyges," "Macbeth," "Midsummer Night's Dream," "Comedy of Errors," "Ibsen," and Hauptmann's "Sunken Bell." This mixed programme illustrates Lorenz's doctrine that the true Nature Theatre must play anything and everything. It also proves his theory of "architectural scenery," for the only accessories to the three buildings needed were occasional plants and flowers placed merely for decorative effect.

Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and Mr. Frank Cellier's company is about to undertake a tour of Germany, where they will play "The Merchant of Venice" and "The School for Scandal." Among other towns to be visited are Berlin, Hamburg, Crefeld, Bonn, Frankfurt, Dresden, Chemnitz, Halle, Leipzig, Bremen, Lubek, Wilhelmshaven, Bremerhaven, Hanover, Cassel, and Weisbaden. The company will also pay a short visit to Switzerland, visiting Berne, Zurich, and St. Gall.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP

Sir Herbert Tree announces the last performance of "The Happy Island" for Wednesday next, and the following Saturday he will revive at His Majesty's "The School for Scandal," which he gave with so remarkable a cast some four years ago. Sir Herbert will again be seen as Sir Peter, but a new Lady Teazle will be found in Miss Phyllis Neilson-Terry, whose debut in that famous part marks an important step in the young actress's career. An interesting engagement is also that of Mr. Matheson Lang for the character of Charles Surface.

The coming summer will bring a number of important productions to His Majesty's. Among them figure Mr. W. Somerset Maugham's adaptation of "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme," and an English version of the French drama, "L'Homme qui assassina," which is to be named "The Right to Kill." In addition, there is the annual Shakespearean festival, which this year will assume even more than usual importance; while in September Sir Herbert will present a play by a well-known English author.

The activities of Sir Herbert will not even then be ended, for he is to be associated with Mr. Philip Michael Faraday in the performance at another theatre of the American play, "Within the Law," by Bernard Veiller, which has been adapted to English tastes by Messrs. Frederick Fenn and Arthur Wimperis. The play sets out to show how much evil can be accomplished without getting into the clutches of the law, and, incidentally, presents a realistic picture of life in a West-End business emporium.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson will revive at Drury Lane on Monday "Mice and Men," the comedy by Madeleine Lucette Ryley. The cast will include: Mr. J. Forbes-Robertson, Mr. Frank Lacy, Mr. Alex. Scott-Gatty, Mr. George Hayes, Mr. J. H. Ryley, Mr. S. T. Pearce, Mr. H. Athol Forde, Miss Adeline Bourne, Miss Augusta Haviland, Miss Nannie Griffin, Miss Dorothy Browne, and Miss Gertrude Elliott. Bernard Shaw's revised version of "Caesar and Cleopatra" will be lived on Monday evening, April 14, and will be repeated on Thursday evening in that week.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson, owing to the great demand for seats to see his "Hamlet" at Drury Lane, will give another matinee of the play on Saturday, and will also present it on Thursday night, instead of "Mice and Men."

On Wednesday, Drury Lane Theatre was crowded by old and present Charterhouse boys and masters, who came to honour their fellow-pupil, Forbes-Robertson, by witnessing and applauding his superb portrayal of Hamlet. Directly after the overture the old Charterhouse song was played by the orchestra, the audience rising en masse and many joining in the Latin verse. Great enthusiasm was evident throughout the evening, and Mr. Forbes-Robertson was repeatedly recalled between the acts and at the close.

The committee of the Actors' Orphanage Fund have decided to give a free pass to the Garden Path to all provincial actors and actresses disposing of ten tickets for the function. They have been led to this decision by the repeated applications from provincial people for a reduction in the price of admission.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. H. Kemble Barnett, which occurred at Burnley on "Friday, March 28. Mr. Kemble Barnett was a great-grandson of Stephen Kemble, and was for some twenty years associated with the Lyceum company under the late Sir Henry Irving, where he assisted the late Mr. Henry Lovejoy in stage management. Since the break-up of the Lyceum company he has, from time to time, fulfilled various small engagements, and latterly was a member of Sir George Alexander's provincial "Bella Donna" company. Although he never filled a position of prominence, he was, from his long association with the Lyceum company, well known to many. Mr. Barnett was brother to the late Miss Alice Barnett, of Savoy opera fame. The remains were cremated at the Manchester Crematorium last Monday in the presence of relations only. The deceased was in his fiftieth year, and unmarried.

At the resumed inquest on the 28th ult. at Burton-on-Trent on Mr. De Hogue Body, manager of the local opera house, who shot his wife through the jaw, and then committed suicide, the widow gave evidence after having been in hospital for three weeks. She said she and her husband entertained some friends on the 4th inst. after the theatre. The friends left after a very pleasant evening. When she reached her bedroom her husband came behind her, and she suddenly felt that she had been struck. She then saw a revolver in her husband's hand. She closed with him, as she feared for her baby, and after wrenching the weapon from him rushed into the maid's room. When the police and a doctor arrived later, they found the body of the deceased on a sofa, with his throat cut. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide during temporary insanity."

Among those present at the premiere of "Typhoon" at the Haymarket Theatre on Wednesday night were the Japanese Minister and suite, Lady Northcliffe, Lady Mond, Lady Arnold, Mrs. George Cornwallis-West, Miss Gladys Unger, Mr. Yoshio Markino, and Mr. Somerset Maugham.

Mr. Martin Harvey is just completing a fortnight's visit to the King's Theatre, Glasgow, where his examples of the new school of stage decoration have been arousing the keenest interest. The whole of last week was devoted to the new production of "The Taming of the Shrew," for which Mr. Harvey had secured the collaboration of Mr. William Poel. The first three nights of the present week saw a revival of Reinhardt's production of "Edipus Rex," which created a veritable furore on its former visit to Glasgow last year. "The Breed of the Treshams" was given on Thursday and Friday. The two weeks' sojourn concludes to-night with the first presentation of Mr. Harvey's new production of "Hamlet," which has been prepared from the designs of Herr Reinhardt. A feature of great interest and artistic utility is the huge semi-cylindrical "drum" which takes the place of backcloths, and which has been constructed with great resourcefulness, so as to be adaptable to theatres of every size. Next week Mr. Martin Harvey will bring his spring tour to a conclusion at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, whence he will return to town to complete the preparations for his London season.

Mr. Robert Harcourt will move the following resolution in the House of Commons on April 16: "That the attempt to maintain by means of antiquated legislation a legal distinction between a theatre and music hall, and to differentiate between productions called stage plays and other dramatic performances, is unworkable; that the system of licensing such plays before production in Great Britain, though not in Ireland, by means principally of the perusal of the manuscripts, should be abolished; and that as regards such exhibitions of whatever kind and wherever given, reliance should be placed on subsequent effective control."

Mr. W. W. Kelly's many friends will learn with much pleasure that he has been able to venture out this week for the first time since his serious accident, which has kept him to the house for upwards of nine weeks. Last Tuesday he was successful in getting to his offices at the Birkenhead Theatre Royal, where he was welcomed in enthusiastic style by the large staff which the popular manager always maintains there.

A circular issued to the Prefects of Departments and directors of theatres by M. Léon Berard, the French Under-Secretary of State for Fine Arts, affects the employment of children on the stage—there, variety, or café-concert. In future no child under nine will be permitted to appear at all on the stage. Theatres in which children form the cast will continue to be prohibited, as is the employment of children under thirteen for café-concerts. No child under sixteen may perform perilous feats or dislocation exercises. Children must hold a school certificate; otherwise they cannot be employed, even during the vacation, on tour.

Miss Lottie Vonne will make a welcome reappearance in Messrs. St. John Hankin and George Calderon's comedy, "Thompson," with which Messrs. Vedrenne and Eadie will resume their Tuesday and Friday matinees at the Royalty on April 22. The cast will also include Miss Athene Seyler, Miss Alice Beet, and Mr. Robert Horton. For Mr. Rudyard Kipling's play, "The Harbour Watch," Mr. George Tully, Mr. Arthur B. Murray, and Miss Winifred Evans have been engaged.

"The Chaperon," Messrs. Jocelyn Brandon and Frederic Arthur's new comedy, will be produced at the Strand on April 26. Mr. Cyril Keightley and Miss Ethel Dane will play the principal parts, and important rôles have been allotted to Mr. E. Dagnall, Mr. M. R. Morand, Miss Ada King, Miss Helen Haye.

Mr. Lawrence Grossmith's cast at the Savoy Theatre, on Tuesday, for the new farce, entitled "Brother Alfred," by H. W. Westbrook and P. G. Wodehouse, includes: M. G. Mayor-Cooke, Mr. Arthur Chesney, Mr. Lawrence Grossmith, Mr. E. W. Garden, Mr. Philip Cunningham, Mr. Sydney Skarratt, Mr. Edward Sass, Mr. Arthur Hatherton, and Misses Gwynneth Galton, Faith Celi, Maud Cressall, and Florence Tempest. The farce will be preceded by "Augustus in Search of a Father," by Harold Chapin.

The death is announced in Jersey, at the age of seventy-five, of Mr. Byron Webster, one of the best-known of Fleet-street journalists of twenty years ago. There was scarcely a branch of newspaper work that he had not been connected with. For many years he was known as a dramatic critic of keen discrimination, appreciation, and many an actor of eminence to-day owes much to his encouragement. He was the first editor, and, in fact, the originator, of the "Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News," and an expert writer on art subjects. He wrote a few novels, his poems were of a high standard, and he was deservedly proud of the patriotic verses, "Hands Across the Sea," which called forth the unsolicited praise of Robert Buchanan. He was born at Stockton-on-Tees.

Mr. Milton Bode and Edward Compton's company of "Everywoman" played to packed business at the New Theatre, Cardiff, last week, and the enthusiasm and appreciation of the audiences was most gratifying, almost every speech of Mr. Edward Compton as Nobody being greeted with applause. That some of the holiday folk were perhaps more enthusiastic than discriminating might be inferred by the following dialogue overheard as they left the theatre:—A: "It's magnificent, man!" B: "Indeed it is, but it's not as funny as 'Charley's Aunt.'"

Mr. F. R. Benson's programme of the annual Shakespeare Festival at Stratford-on-Avon, which begins on April 21 and ends on May 14, is very attractive. Ten plays of Shakespeare will be presented, including "Richard the Second," "Henry the Fourth" (Part II.), "Henry the Fifth," and "Richard the Third," and the list also includes "The Tragedy of Pompey the Great," by John Masfield; "The Devil's Disciple," by G. Bernard Shaw; and "The Silver Box," by John Galsworthy. The last-named play will be performed by the Birmingham Repertory Theatre company. "Troilus and Cressida" will be staged by the Elizabethan Stage Society, under the direction of Mr. William Poel; and the Oxford University Dramatic Society will be seen in "The Shoemaker's Holiday," by Thomas Dekker. Miss Violet Vanbrugh is to appear in "Much Ado About Nothing," and Mrs. Benson in "Henry the Fourth" (Part II.). "Richard the Third," and "The Taming of the Shrew." Scenery for the history plays has been designed by Mr. F. Randle Ayrton, and Dr. Vaughan Williams once more undertakes the musical direction, and is writing special music for the same series.

During the festival lectures will be given by Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mrs. C. C. Stopes, Mr. F. R. Benson, and Mrs. Leo Grindon; Mrs. Gordon Woodhouse will give a concert of old English music on the harpsichord and virginals, assisted by M. Louis Fleury; and there is to be a recital of old songs and ballads by Miss Jean Stirling Mackinlay. The Shakespeare sermon on April 27 will be preached by the Rev. F. H. B. Mackay, of All Saints', Margaret-street, London. The general programme of events on April 23 includes the unfurling of the national flag, the floral procession to the church, and the decoration of the poet's grave.

The April meeting of the directors of the Royal General Theatrical Fund was held at Savoy House, Strand, London, on Tuesday last, the chair being occupied by Mr. Charles K. Cooper. Messrs. Lionel Carson, Arthur Curtis, Douglas Gordon, Alfred Jenner, Herbert Lyndon, F. Percival Stevens, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary) were in attendance. A candidate for membership was duly elected. Messrs. Ralph W. Hutton and Frank Ridley were elected directors to fill the vacancies caused by the appointment of Mr. M. R. Morand as chairman of the Association and Mr. Charles Rock as treasurer. An annuity in the highest class was granted to an applicant. It was agreed that in future the monthly meetings be held at 12 noon instead of 11.30 a.m. as hitherto.

The Horniman Players of the Gaiety Manchester arrived in Montreal on Tuesday, the 11th ult., hurried to His Majesty's Theatre—which is "up-town"—and about twenty minutes' drive from the station—and had unpacked, dressed, and rung up the curtain on "Candida" by 9 o'clock. Sharp work! The Players are now in Chicago, after which they will go to Boston for a short season.

Ben Landeck's military drama, "A Soldier and a Man," will be played next week at the Marlborough Theatre by Mr. Frank Weatherbury's company, who is also touring "The Thief," "The Witness for the Defence," and two companies of "The Importance of Being Earnest."

"Proud Maisie," the romantic Scottish drama, written by Edward C. Hemmerde, K.C., M.P., is to be performed by Mr. Arthur Hardy's company at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, on Monday. Mr. Hardy has engaged forty actors and actresses to appear in the minor characters. Miss Laura Cowie, who will play Maisie, was for three years an important member of Sir Herbert Tree's company at His Majesty's.

Mr. Cecil Chesterton, lecturing at the O.P. Club on Sunday evening, made by inference a strong plea for the smoking-room story. Plays which might be regarded as distasteful ought not to be taken seriously, as those who thus discussed them were almost certain to go "off the line." If indecent subjects were to be discussed seriously they should be subjected to the disinfectant of humour, he said. Things that were really vile and were really abominable died in the atmosphere created by laughter. In the interests of morals the best things to be aimed at were a continual cleansing of all discussion on subjects connected with sex by healthy virile laughter, and the continual insistence by all healthy people that either those subjects should not be discussed at all or else there should be freedom to say plain phrases which told people what they really meant.

Miss Doris Digby has been engaged by Messrs. Sydney Blow and Hartley Milburn to play Kate in "The Twelve-Pound Look"; Viola, the title rôle, in "The Girl in Possession"; Mrs. Templeton in "Slippery Tim," etc., in their London Repertory Company. She opened with the company in Capetown on March 4.

Mr. George Edwardes will produce the new film play at the Gaiety Theatre this evening. The original music is by Herren Rollo and Bradschneider, but there will be several additional numbers by Mr. Melville J. Gideon and others. The English "book" is by Mr. J. T. Tanner, and the lyrics by Mr. Adrian Ross. In the cast are Miss Emmy Wehlen, Miss Gwendoline Broden, Miss Madeleine Seymour, Miss Blanche Stocker, and Miss Connie Ediss, and Messrs. George Grossmith, George Barrett, Robert Nainby, Reginald Tozer, Arthur Wellesley, Fred Kaye, and Charles Maude.

Mr. Cyril Maude, with Miss Margery Maude and the whole of the Playhouse company, were at the Theatre Royal, Eastbourne, for Easter week, but have returned to London and resumed the run of "The Headmaster."

Mr. Lewis Waller, who has been playing "A Marriage of Convenience" to big business in Canada, has now returned to America, which he will leave for London on April 16, sailing for Australia after a fortnight only in the metropolis.

Mr. E. Marshall Hall will preside at the Playgoers' Club's twenty-ninth annual dinner at the Hotel Cecil on Sunday, April 13, and propose the toast of "The Drama," which will be responded to by Mr. Gerald du Maurier, Miss Marie Tempest replying to the toast of "The Visitors," and Mr. J. T. Grein to that of "The British Playgoers' Federation."

The British Playgoers' Federation, of which Mr. J. T. Grein is the president, will hold its first annual conference in London on Saturday in the club rooms of the Playgoers' Club, and the whole of the delegates will be present at the Club's annual dinner at the Hotel Cecil on the following evening. The President of the Federation gives a dinner to the delegates on the Saturday evening.

On Tuesday the Vandeville Theatre "School Mistress" company will give a matinee performance at Bristol, leaving Paddington at 9 a.m., returning from Bristol at 5 p.m., and reaching Paddington at 7 p.m. Dinner will be served on the return journey. The company will perform at the Vandeville Theatre as usual on Tuesday evening.

The repertory season at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, under the direction of Mr. Kebble Howard and Mr. Dick Adams, will open on Monday, April 14, with "Chains," with a cast including Mr. Eille Norwood, Mr. John Napper, Mr. James Gelder, Mr. Richard Edridge, Mr. A. E. Filmer, Mr. William Stack, Mr. Stanley Leathbury, Miss Madge McIntosh, Miss Pearl Katts, Miss Alison Gillies, and Miss Nora Kessler.

Mr. Eric Hudson concludes to-night his sixth engagement with Mr. Dance as Joe Kelly in "The Whip," not having missed a performance since the original production in the provinces. He has played the part 668 times—a record for performances in the play.

Mr. James Hughes writes: "I was taken seriously ill last Monday with loss of voice and cold, and was unfit to play my part of Hajj in 'Kismet,' but against my doctor's orders I struggled through. Mr. Roadnight, who has been my understudy all the tour, and had previously rehearsed the part, took it up on Tuesday night. Thanks to careful nursing, I was able to resume my rôle last Saturday."

During Miss Adela Crippin's absence at Plymouth last week, Miss Hilda Bekamy played Prudence in Mr. George Dance's No. 1 company for three nights, and scored a success. She has sustained the character nearly a dozen times during the tour, notably at the Crystal Palace Theatre about three weeks since.

At the meeting at Archbishop's House, Westminster, of the National Catholic Congress on Monday, which was presided over by His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, supported by His Lordship the Bishop of Plymouth, Mr. Richard B. Mason attended as the representative of the Catholic Stage Guild. At a meeting of the Guild on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Arthur Curtis in the chair, it was resolved unanimously to offer the condolences of the committee, on behalf of the Guild, to Miss Ethel St. Barbe (the honorary secretary), whose father died on the 27th ult. Miss St. Barbe is at present on tour with "The Younger Generation" company.

Mr. Cairns James will appear in a duologue with Miss Marie Cox in a dramatic and humorous recital, which the young actress will give at the Balham Assembly Rooms on Friday evening, April 25. The programme will also include contributions from Miss Nellie Walker (contralto), Miss Edith Harry (pianist), and Mr. Walter Denals (tenor).

Mr. W. H. Brougham will conclude to-night a special twelve weeks' engagement with Miss Ethel Arden and Geo. Abel's "Stowaway" company, in which he has been playing Captain Avondale, R.N.R., with success.

The highly successful and amusing farcical comedy, "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford," in which that delightful American comedian, Mr. Hale Hamilton, has made such a decided hit, reaches its 100th performance at the Queen's Theatre to-day (Saturday).

"TYPHOON."

Play in Four Acts, from Melchior Lengyel's "Taifun." Produced at the Haymarket Theatre on Wednesday, April 2.

Baron Yoshikawa Mr. Robin Shiells
Takeramo Mr. Laurence Irving
Kobayashi Mr. Henry Crocker
Omami Mr. Claude Rains
Kitamaru Mr. Azooma Shoko
Yamoshi Mr. Charles Terrie
Hironari Mr. Leon M. Lion
Amamari Mr. Arthur Stanley
Miyake Mr. S. Isogai
Tanaka Mr. A. Tsuchiya
Yoshino Mr. K. Sumoge
Yotomo Mr. George Carr
Georges Mr. H. O. Nicholson
Renard-Beinsky Mr. Leon Quartermain
Professor Dupont Mr. E. Lyall Swete
Benoit Mr. Arthur Whitty
Marchand Mr. Allan Jeayes
Simon Mr. Herbert Hewetson
Usher Mr. Stuart Musgrove
Theresa Miss Marjorie Waterlow
Hélène Miss Mabel Hackney

"Typhoon" makes three distinct appeals to an audience—a national, a human, and a narrative appeal. It draws our attention in the most graphic and picturesque way to the extraordinary ambitions which are believed to exist in the minds of thinking Japanese, and which constitute what is called the "Yellow Peril"; it shows us the wily Oriental very human after all, and softening under the seductive influence of "the sex"; and it develops into a drama of incident with a touch of the detective story. With such qualities, and with such super-excellent acting, a piece can hardly fail to create intense interest; and this "Typhoon" certainly did at the Haymarket on Wednesday.

Part of the success was undoubtedly due to the finished and artistic way in which the details were supplied, and here Mr. Joseph Harker must share the credit with Mr. Yoshio Markino. The scene of the first three acts, representing a Japanese gentleman's flat in Paris, gave an "atmosphere" to the play at once. Takeramo is a "Jap" noble, and the leader of an organisation in Paris of Japanese delegates who are staying in that city to study European methods, and adapt them to Oriental uses, with the ultimate object of making Japan the mistress of the world. These emissaries have the greatest contempt for Western ways and Western women; but human nature is still strong in them, and Takeramo has been bewitched by Hélène, a Parisian light o' love, who, unknown to Takeramo, is the mistress of an impressionist artist, Renard-Beinsky. Most of the first act is occupied by exposition and depiction. Thus, we are introduced to the secret conferences of the little "Jap" community; we hear the elders of the movement sagely warning Takeramo against the subtle and baneful influence of European associations and decrying the European women for wearing "garments which display every line of their pampered and bulbous bodies"; we are amused by the entrance of a party of little "Japs," by their peculiar manners and gestures, and we see them, with closed doors, dressing up in their native robes, and celebrating one of their native festivals by drinking tea and telling stories against a background of screens. We are, in short, saturated with the idea of the Yellow Peril before the real action begins by Hélène trying to coax Takeramo into revealing to her the secrets of his brotherhood. She brings to bear on him the full force of her wiles, and he is yielding to her caresses when suddenly he recollects himself, and, rising, goes coolly to a table, and says, "Let us do a little write."

Hélène is a complex character—hysterical, fickle, passionate. She hates Takeramo for his coolness and self-control, and her passion for him is chiefly inspired by pique. The "elders" of the "Jap" confederacy, fearing the effect of her connection with him, let Takeramo know that Hélène is Renard-Beinsky's mistress, and urge him to cast her off. The scene in which he does this is dramatically effective. Hélène is bitterly indignant when he tells her to go from him and not return again. She pleads, protests, and declares her love for him, until she has brought him to her feet. Then she throws off the mask, tells him that she has never cared a scrap for him, and loads him with scornful and derisive abuse. She goes too far, however, when she insults his country and the Mikado, and he takes her by the throat and strangles her. The "Jap" colony is summoned, and there is a earnest competition amongst the members as to who shall take on himself the blame of the murder, and leave Takeramo free to continue his patriotic work; and a young man named Omami is chosen for the sacrifice.

After this the interest of the play is incidental and constructional. The French judge d'instinction is completely deceived, and when Takeramo, unable to endure the situation, tries to confess his guilt, the judge turns a deaf ear and sends Omami to prison for seven years. Then Takeramo takes a touching farewell of his friends, and performs the suicidal ceremony known as hari-kari.

Mr. Laurence Irving's Takeramo was a really marvellous piece of impersonation. He was the calm, self-controlled, calculating, and ever-courteous Japanese noble to the life; and the illusion of Eastern nationality was extraordinary. The part fitted him exactly, and it is hard to imagine it better played, if as well, by any other English actor. It is, certainly, one of the most artistic and impressive things Mr. Irving has ever done; it thrills, it chills, it almost terrifies by its suavity and its remorseless ruthlessness. Hardly less awe-inspiring in a different way were the Kobayashi of Mr. Henry Crocker, full of true Japanese heroism and fanatic patriotism, and the Baron Yoshikawa of Mr. Robin Shiells, hard, cold, and fork-bearded; and Mr. Claude Rains was agreeably earnest and impulsive as the young Omami. There were variety and excellent ensemble in the representatives of the Jap colony, who were all realistically made up and played their parts carefully and well. Mr. Leo Quartermain gave a capital character sketch as a naïf, hasty, impulsive, French artist; Mr. Lyall Swete, as a concealed professor, the author of a book on Japan, bulked large, both physically and dramatically; and Mr. Arthur Whitty gave a sharp and telling interpretation of the character of the investigating judge. The hit of the evening, however, was achieved by Miss Mabel Hackney, in the very difficult part of Hélène. She hit off exactly the nervous, restless, discontented, but vigorous Parisian Cressida. She handled the great scene with Takeramo in splendidly free and flexible style, ending with a crescendo of rage and scorn which was irresistible. Miss Hackney has rarely, if ever, done anything better than this, and her impersonation places her in a high position as an emotional actress. Miss Marjorie Waterlow was duly dainty and demure as Theresa, and Mr. Allan Jeayes and Mr. Stuart Musgrove were good as officers of the High Court. "Typhoon" is an enthralling play, and should stand a good chance of success at the Haymarket.

A new play, in one act, by Mr. Eden Philpotts, entitled "The Carrier Pigeon," will be produced for the first time on Monday by Mr. Alfred Wareing's repertory company, at the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow. The scene is a room in a Dartmoor cottage, and the three characters which constitute the cast are Harry Hawke (an old poacher), Mr. George Elton; Elvay Cobleigh (his neighbour), Mr. Mawson; Milly Hawke (his wife), Miss Dora Harker.

"THE INFERIOR SEX."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by Frank Stayton, Produced at the Comedy Theatre on Thursday, April 3.

Charles Winslow Mr. Kenneth Douglas
Bennett Mr. O. B. Clarence
Luigi Mr. Arthur Grenville
Ah Sin Mr. Percy Goodyer
Engineer Mr. Reynier Barton
Office of R.M.S. Dunottar Castle
Mr. Gerald Ames
Eve Addison Miss Renée Kelly

Messrs. Kenneth Douglas and Carl F. Leyer, who are responsible for the production of Mr. Frank Stayton's comedy at the Comedy on Thursday evening could not complain of any lack of encouragement from the first-night audience. There was, indeed, shown keen appreciation of excellent work done by Mr. Douglas, Miss Renée Kelly, and the other members of the company. The play itself was found to be not so satisfactory; the plot was too slight to sustain the interest until the end was reached; but, on the other hand, the author deserves to be complimented on having written some bright, racy dialogue.

Charles Winslow is a young bachelor who decides to go on a long sea trip in order that he may be free from the worries of everyday life, and devote himself to the writing of his great work, "The Inferior Sex." He regards women as the greatest worry of all, and is a confirmed misogynist. On board his yacht Firefly, he believes that at least he is safe from the intrusion of the daughters of Mother Eve. But the unexpected happens. The vessel has to slow down on account of a thick fog, and when the author is about to resume his work in the retirement of his comfortable cabin, he is informed by his valet, Bennett, that a small boat has been discovered alongside the yacht, and in it is a young woman who has apparently fainted from exhaustion caused by want of food. Much to Winslow's disgust she is brought to the cabin and placed on his bed. Restoratives in the form of brandy and hot soup having been applied, the young lady, who it may be taken for granted is fair of form and feature, tearfully explains how she went for a solitary row, and the heavy fog coming on she found herself in a helpless position. For hours had the little boat drifted at the mercy of the waves, until its occupant had been overcome by exhaustion. The owner of the yacht is greatly annoyed at having all his plans upset by the arrival of this unbidden guest. He cannot put her back into the boat and send her adrift, and has to play the part of host much against his inclinations. The yacht has only one cabin, and so a Box and Cox arrangement has to be made, by which the lady occupies it at night and the gentleman during the day.

The presence on board of a pretty girl even reconciles Bennett, the valet, to the prospect of a prolonged absence from "England, home, and beauty," while Luigi, an impressionable Italian sailor, and Ah Sin, the Chinese cook, become her willing slaves. But the lady, whose name is Eve Addison, and writes popular novels under a nom de plume, does not find it so easy a matter to bring her host under subjection; and at the end of a week she admits that by a strict observance of the Box and Cox arrangement, she has seen very little of him. He altogether fails to perceive the romance of the situation. So the lady makes a more decided attack upon the heart of the avowed woman-hater, who has "behaved like a brute," by arranging that they shall breakfast together; but even this manoeuvre does not advance matters very much. Perhaps her host's better qualities would be revealed if he believed himself placed in a position of danger. She has not read the works of R. L. Stevenson in vain, and proceeds to stir up a mutiny on board the yacht by informing the crew that beneath the floor of the cabin are kegs of brandy and boxes of gold. But the results of this incitement to mutiny are more than the lady and Bennett, her fellow-conspirator, bargained for. The crew mutiny in grim earnest, and the explanation that the brandy and the gold were only a joke fails to satisfy them. They demand the girl as well, and invade the cabin. Eve gets hold of Winslow's revolver, and though the mutineers beat a hasty retreat, one of the shots finds a lodgment in her unfortunate host's left leg, and she takes advantage of the situation by acting as nurse.

The scene of the third act is the deck of the yacht, the crew of which are prisoners. Eve raises a flag of distress, which is seen by the captain of the R.M.S. Dunottar Castle, who sends an officer on board. The explanation given by the yacht-owner is not very satisfactory, but by this time he has capitulated to the all-conquering young woman, and asked her to become his wife. The crew, having been pardoned, are released, and the lovers part to meet again very shortly.

There are only three characters in the comedy that really count, the converted misogynist, his valet, and the young lady. Mr. Kenneth Douglas played the part of Charles Winslow for all that it was worth. The selfish bachelor's intense irritation and snappishness caused by the intrusion of the young woman were most amusingly expressed, and the gradual thawing and subjection to female charm were shown in equally effective style. Mr. Douglas thoroughly deserved the enthusiastic reception accorded him. He was fortunate in having so competent an ally as Miss Renée Kelly, who was able to invest her portrayal of Eve Addison with a girlish charm and freshness that were delightful. The most determined of misogynists would have succumbed to such an attractive young woman. Mr. O. B. Clarence gave a richly humorous rendering of the rôle of Bennett, who, having been married three times, presents a direct contrast to his woman-hating master. Mr. Arthur Grenville deserves every credit for a capital sketch of the Italian sailor, Luigi; and Mr. Percy Goodyer did well as the Chinese cook, Ah Sin. Mr. Gerald Ames proved quite satisfactory as the officer of the passing steamer, and Mr. Reynier Barton as the engineer completed an efficient cast.

The comedy was preceded by a new sketch, entitled

"AN ADVENTURE OF PIERROT."
Pierrot Miss Nancy Denvers
Jeanette Miss Margot Ashton
Tircis Miss Violet Morton
Lisette Miss Dora Matthews

This musical sketch was arranged from old French songs by Gustave Ferrari, and produced under the direction of Mr. Dion Clayton Calhoun. While a company of French peasant girls are engaged in singing their tuneful old village songs, Pierrot enters, and with a bored air listens, as he smokes a cigarette. He is followed by a youth who sings a love song to his sweetheart, one of the village maidens. After a while a marching air is heard; the youth is compelled to go to the wars. He leaves his sweetheart broken-hearted, and after a dance in the moonlight by Pierrot, the girls reappear with lanterns, and sing the well-known old song, "Au clair de la lune." Miss Nancy Denvers, as Pierrot, danced in pleasing style, and Miss Violet Morton, as the boy, sang effectively. Miss Margot Ashton, as Jeanette, and Miss Dora Matthews, as Lisette, also did well, supported by the Misses Munday, Hunter Ashton, Palmer and McCready as the pretty village maidens.

A copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

FORBES-ROBERTSON'S SEASON.

On Monday, March 31, at Drury Lane Theatre, George Fleming's Adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's Novel, "THE LIGHT THAT FAILED."

Dick Helder Mr. J. Forbes-Robertson
Gilbert Belling Torpenhow Mr. C. Aubrey Smith
J. G. Fordham Mr. Percy Rhodes
Leone Cassavetti Mr. Alex. Scott-Gatty
Morton Mackenzie Mr. Montague Rutherford
James Vickery Mr. S. A. Cookson
G. B. Deenes Mr. Eric Adey
F. Cecil Vincent Mr. Walter Ringham
Phil Raynor Mr. Robert Atkins
Beeton Mr. J. H. Ryley
A Young Man Mr. George Hayes
Maisie Miss Gertrude Elliott
Bessie Broke Miss Olive Richardson
The Red-Haired Girl Miss Adeline Bourne
Mrs. Haynes Miss Nannie Griffin
A Model Miss Dorothy Brown
A French Bonne Miss Maud Buchanan

The charm of Kipling seems to have secured the success of the adaptation of his popular story by "George Fleming," which was produced at the Lyric Theatre in the February of 1903, with Mr. Forbes-Robertson as Dick Helder, Mr. Aubrey Smith as Torpenhow, Miss Nina Boucicault as Bessie Broke, and Miss Margaret Halstan as the Red-Haired Girl. The play, like the story, is an interesting and pathetic picture of art and war; the hero, Dick Helder, being a war artist. Dick is in love with Maisie, an ambitious young painter, and an independent "modern woman." She has a great belief in her artistic future, and refuses to sacrifice it to love. Maisie has been trying to paint a picture of Melancholy, but Dick discourages her dreams of artistic greatness, and she retaliates by doubting his powers. Piqued by this, he takes a half-starved "unfortunate" from the street for his model, and starts on a great picture.

The model, while sitting for the "Melancholy," falls in love with Dick's friend, Torpenhow. Dick, in order to save Torpenhow from making a fool of himself, sends Bessie away; and she, in revenge, obliterates the painting and destroys the canvas. Then Dick loses his eyesight, and his bitterness is completed by his being told of the ruin which Bessie has wrought. But Maisie comes back from France to console the poor blind artist, and offers him her love. He refuses at first to let her sacrifice herself; but in the end he assents and they are united.

It is probable that the part of the artist, and the general art-atmosphere of the piece, has something to do with Mr. Forbes-Robertson's liking for it, for, as everyone knows, he is himself an accomplished painter. As will no doubt be remembered, "George Fleming's" adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's novel departs from the story of the book by supplying the conventional "happy ending" in place of the death of Dick in action in Egypt in the company of his old colleagues. In other respects the play follows the book fairly closely, the main episodes being preserved.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson, by the naturalness of his acting as the lovable Dick Helder, almost made us lose sight of the consummate art of his interpretation. Whether blind or seeing, drunk or sober, the reality and humanity of the character stood out convincingly. Miss Gertrude Elliott as Maisie was a little hampered by her surroundings, the size of the stage disconcerting, in a measure, to all except those in the front rows, the delicacy of her always refined and intelligent acting. Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, who received a warm welcome from the audience, was virile and sympathetic as Torpenhow. The bevy of war-correspondents was well impersonated by Messrs. Montague Rutherford, S. A. Cookson, Eric Adey, Walter Ringham, and Robert Atkins, who all worked and played together with boisterous good-fellowship, and the performances of Mr. Percy Rhodes as the Nilgathi and of Mr. Alex. Scott-Gatty as the humorous Leone Cassavetti stood out prominently. Mr. J. H. Ryley made a feature of the small part of the butler Beeton, and Miss Nannie Griffin was good as the latterly landlady Mrs. Haynes. Miss Adeline Bourne's make-up left no doubt of her being "The Red-Haired Girl," and her clever acting in the part elicited a well-deserved special call before the curtain. Miss Olive Richardson did all that could be done with the part of the ungrateful Bessie Broke, and Miss Maud Buchanan pleased her audience by her acting as a conventional French Bonne. Mr. George Hayes as a Young Man and Miss Dorothy Brown as a model efficiently completing the cast. The revival was enthusiastically received by a large audience.

THE BRITANNIA, HOKTON.

On Monday, March 31, the Drama, entitled "THE COWBOY KING."

Mr. Morton Powell is evidently determined to secure a return to the position of the "Old Brit," with lengthy and interesting entertainment. He has added to the four-act play an hour's animated picture show, which includes the latest films, and has reduced the prices of admission. "The Cowboy King" affords many opportunities for shooting, lariat throwing, and stock whip manipulating, besides including an exciting attack on a hut, a robbery of a mail, and a terrific fight between Indians and cowboys. The Montana cowboy band is a novelty which is amply rewarded with applause. Mr. Beresford Whitcomb, in the title-role, submits an excellent performance, his fine voice and manly bearing assisting him greatly. The villainy of Harry Ashton, head of a roving band of outlaws, is capably portrayed by Mr. Austen Melrose. Miss Nellie Burdett is a part and amusing Kate, a Western belle. Mr. Henry J. Morton causes any amount of laughter as Mike McBride, a faithful cowboy follower, and so does Mr. Arthur Russell as Ben White, a black rascal, who is a good comedian. Mr. Jackson Hayes provides a capital character-sketch in the part of the traitor Indian, Red Eagle. Mr. Arthur Brown supplies a vigorous and well-defined impersonation of John Firman, the aged owner of the Haunted Mine. Miss Mabel Lowe as Lu-tu-nah, or "Morning Star," gives evidence of her ability as an actress, presenting the character with striking realism. Miss Lilla Wild's fine voice is of great advantage in her portrayal of Flora Ashton, the outlaw's deserted wife. The pathos is never overdone, and her performance throughout is consistently good. Mr. Leslie Clare makes use of every opportunity afforded him in the character of Fighting Jank. A picturesque and convincing performance of Zebu, an Indian chief, comes from Mr. Lazro Costello. Mr. Philip Royal and Mr. Frank A. Bonner contribute excellent work as Bob Seymour and Jim Johnson; and Mr. C. T. McCarthy does full justice to his part of Bill Randall. Correa, besides being an expert lariat thrower, is a good actor, and plays intelligently. The scenery is excellent, the best sets being those depicting the mountains. Mr. Fred Allwood and his efficient orchestra interpret the music very expressively, and also accompany the pictures with pleasing selections. Mr. Powell is taking an active interest in the management of his theatre, in which he is assisted by Mr. Thompson.

On Saturday last, at the Theatre Royal, Dewsbury, a performance was given by Miss Grace Warner and company, for copyright purposes, of a new romantic drama by Roy Rhind, entitled "The Kingdom Come."

A PINERO FARCE.

"Playgoers," Play, in One Act, by Sir A. W. Pinero, Produced at the St. James's Theatre on Monday, March 31.

The Master Mr. A. E. Benedict
The Mistress Miss Mary Clare
The Cook Miss Margaret Yardie
The Kitchenmaid Miss Iris Fraser Foss
The Parlourmaid Miss Elizabeth Chesney
The Housemaid Miss Annie Walden
The Useful Maid Miss Esme Church
The Odd Man Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds

The announcement of a first piece by Sir Arthur Pinero did not induce the patrons of the higher-priced seats at the St. James's to put forward their culinary arrangements on Monday, and the new piece was played to stalls which still awaited the arrival of their owners. To be frank, however, their loss was not great, for though occasional brilliant witticisms quite in the Pinero style are to be found, the little piece does not rise far above the level of the ordinary curtain-raiser. A humorous variation of the ever-present servant problem is furnished in the morning-room of a London house, the young mistress of which, having had constant changes of her domestics, determines to propitiate them by providing them with periodical amusement, beginning with an evening at the theatre. Accordingly she summons them together, and gets her husband to announce the glad tidings. The news does not awaken the enthusiasm which the young mistress had anticipated, and various amendments to the proposal are made, the parlourmaid insisting that a second seat shall be taken for her "fancé," and the cook stipulating that her favourite nephew shall be similarly accommodated. The question as to which play shall be selected proves an insurmountable obstacle, and the discussion soon becomes a dispute, ending in all the domestics giving notice. The only one who remains faithful is the odd man, who has intruded himself into the assembly with his window-cleaning impedimenta. Continuous laughter was the result of the performance, the spirit of which was consistently maintained by the members of the cast. The harassed master of the house, vainly endeavouring to pacify his servants, was amusingly depicted by Mr. A. E. Benedict; and Miss Mary Clare fully portrayed the elation of the young mistress at having found what she considers the solution of the servant problem, and her gradations of despair at its utter failure. The half-dozen servants were all cleverly contrasted, Miss Margaret Yardie as the assertive Cook and Miss Elizabeth Chesney as the superior Parlourmaid being particularly diverting. A deliciously droll character-sketch of the Odd Man was given by Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds, who was responsible for much merriment. The Kitchenmaid, who is constantly extinguished by the Cook; the Useful Maid, who demonstrates her joy by floods of tears; and the dissenting Housemaid, with conscientious scruples, were equally funny, as represented respectively by Miss Iris Fraser Foss, Miss Esme Church, and Miss Annie Walden.

The playlet was accorded loud applause, and after repeated calls for "Author," Mr. C. T. H. Helmsley came forward and said: "Sir Arthur Pinero is not in the house, but I am sure he will be pleased with the news of the kind reception given to his little piece."

"Open Windows" continues to interest crowded houses by reason of its great human interest, and its deftly constituted plot so admirably carried out by its interpreters. Sir George Alexander and Miss Irene Vanbrugh prove themselves again a superbly matched pair, and their artistic acting enthralled the house. Miss Rosalie Toiler is the sweet young maiden to the life, exquisitely fresh, girlish, and impulsive; and Mr. Sydney Valentine's skilful study of the gloomy Brook contributes invaluable to the success of Mr. A. E. W. Mason's clever play.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 31, the Drama, entitled "THE WHITE SLAVES OF LONDON."

Some of the most popular plays of recent years have been written by Mr. Arthur Shirley, whose name is familiar to all admirers of virile and realistic drama, but it is doubtful whether any of his works is more vivid in its passion and earnestness of purpose than "The White Slaves of London," which is being produced at the Theatre Royal this week. Mr. Shirley has taken the evils wrought by the infamous white slave traffic as his theme, and while forcing home his arguments against those responsible for the mischief he has not sacrificed dramatic truth for the sake of cheap theatrical effects. He has written as a playwright with a view to exciting the interest and enlisting the sympathy of his audience, and while the moral which he wishes to convey emerges very clearly, it is not made unduly obtrusive. There was a packed house on Monday night, and the acting aroused nearly as much enthusiasm as the play itself. The whole of the artists showed ability of a very high order, and a more capable company could not have been selected. To Miss Rubie Maude, for her brilliant work in the rôle of Astra Bell, an orphan girl, whom the harpies try to get into their toils, must be accorded the chief honours of the evening. She acted with great tenderness and sensibility, and her clever characterisation made the unfortunate girl whom she portrayed seem very real. Mr. Carlton also distinguished himself as the Rev. Allan Gordon, and Miss Nellie De Lacey is entitled to praise for her vigorous and incisive study of Madge Rendall. Although the action is for the most part tense and highly strung, it is relieved by some delightful flashes of humour, provided by Mr. Willie H. Vernon and Miss Ruby Lee. The part of Gratton Gale is exceptionally well acted by Mr. William G. Marshall. Miss Charlotte Ballanger makes a fine Sarah Shafto; Mr. W. Cudd is also very good as the jeweller. Other parts are well filled by Messrs. William Annesley, Edward Fryer, R. F. Wilson, Fred Coutts, D. Warden, and Fred Garth, and Misses May Mussett, Nora Bond, Alice Thorn, Cynthia Marshall, Florence Young, and Annie Ross.

The Sinton Scholarship (violin) at the Royal Academy of Music has been awarded to Kate Rosalie Goldschmidt (a native of London), Margaret T. Cochrane being highly commended, and Lilian A. D. Foster commended. The adjudicators were Messrs. Frank Arnold, Josef Blaha, and Hans Wessely (chairman). The Charles Mortimer Prize (composition) has been awarded to Luise M. H. Winter (a native of Kenley). The adjudicators were Miss Ethel Barnes, and Messrs. A. von Ahn Carse and Montague F. Phillips. The Goldberg Prize (contraltos) has been awarded to Elsie Gough (a native of Manchester), Dora Delise being commended. The adjudicators were Misses Constance Dugard, Elizabeth Davies, and Katie Moss (in the chair). The Sterndale Bennett Prize (pianoforte) has been awarded to Harriet Cohen (a native of London), Ethel Bilsland being highly commended, and Marjorie Hermon and Florence Matt commended. The adjudicators were Miss Elsie Horpe, Miss Irene Scharrer, and Mr. Ernest Fowles (chairman). The Edward W. Nicholls Prize (pianoforte) has been awarded to Harriet Cohen (a native of London), Florence Marr, Adela Hamaton, and Katherine Doubleday being highly commended. The adjudicators were Messrs. Russell Bonnet, Victor Booth, and Arthur Newstead (chairman).

MR. RICHARD CARFAX.

In the excellent lever de rideau, "The Broken String," now being presented at the Aldwych Theatre, the part of Edale Latchford is played very cleverly and convincingly by Mr. Richard Carfax.

This is not the first occasion that the young actor has presented a faithful portrait of a man of mature years. We recall his excellent character study of the old butler, stat 70, in "The Dust of Egypt," and later as Xavier (a man in his prime) in "The Little Café." As Mr. Carfax pleads to being but two-and-twenty years of age, an "Era" representative considered a chat with him might prove interesting.

"I commenced my stage schooling at that excellent institution, the Academy of Dramatic Art," said the young actor, "and immediately I left the Academy I was fortunate enough to be able to make my first appearance upon the London stage at the Garrick Theatre in 'Dame Nature,' and doubly fortunate in that I was playing under the Management of that talented and popular actress, Miss Ethel Irving. This was in the year 1910. I remained at the Garrick for a lengthy season, and then went on tour with Miss Irving in the same play."

"At the conclusion of the tour I was invited to play in Mr. Benson's Company; but, being seized with sudden illness when upon the point of joining



Photo by Elite Portrait Co., Ltd.

MR. CARFAX AS XAVIER IN "THE LITTLE CAFE."

the Company, I was compelled to cancel the engagement. Upon my restoration to health my next engagement of importance was under Mr. Gerald du Maurier's agreeable Management, in 'The Dust of Egypt,' at Wyndham's Theatre. In this interesting play I was cast for the rôle of the old 'caddy,' and though it could only be considered a small part, it was, I believe, thought to afford opportunities for an interesting character study; and the critics, may I add, with all modesty, were good enough to say very kind things concerning my interpretation of this part. I next appeared in 'Jelf's' at Wyndham's, in another 'old man' part, that of the aged butler—quite a different 'study,' temperamentally, from that which I essayed in the Egyptian play. Here again I was fortunate to win a generous measure of gratifying recognition.

"I recall your excellent acting in this part, and must say you thoroughly deserved the praise you gained."

"Many thanks, sir. Well, upon the conclusion of the run of 'Jelf's,' Mr. Cyril Maude was kind enough to offer me the rôle of Xavier in 'The Little Café,' and upon this occasion my part at the Playhouse was that of a man of about forty. I am now playing the rôle, to me, very interesting part of the aged Edale Latchford, in 'The Broken String,' which, you will know, is being presented in front of that delightful and successful comedy, 'Her Side of the House,' at the Aldwych Theatre. And through the kindness of Sir Joseph Becham's popular General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader, I find my engagement very enjoyable."

"As you may remember, Edale Latchford appears to be close upon seventy years of age. You may therefore judge of my intense amusement upon learning from a friend that he recently overheard two ladies in the stalls at the Aldwych discussing the question of my real age, and one of them saying she was positive I should 'never see sixty again.'"

"I should like to be allowed to say that I regard myself exceptionally lucky in being fortunate enough, at the age of twenty-two, to have enjoyed the liberal stage education of appearing under such important London Managements as those which I have been able to mention, and also to express my sincere gratitude for the kindness and consideration which I have always experienced during my comparatively brief stage career."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Memories" By the Hon. Stephen Coleridge. With twelve illustrations. 247 pages. Price 7s. 6d. net. Published by John Lane.

"A Voice from the Veld." By Mary Byron. 77 pages. Price 2s. 6d. net. Published by J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd.

"Shiloma Levy" and other vagaries. By Louis Cohen. Illustrated. 200 pages. Price 1s. net. Published by Walbrook and Co., Ltd.

"Peers of the Stage." By Cranston Metcalfe. With 24 portraits. 264 pages. Price 10s. 6d. net. Published by Andrew Melrose.

"The Novel Magazine," April. Price 4d. net. Published by C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd.

"The Author." April. Price 6d. Published by the Society of Authors (Incorporated).

"This Generation." A play. By S. M. Fox. 158 pages. Price 2s. 6d. net. Published by T. Fisher Unwin.

"M.A.B." (Mainly About Books). Price 1d. Published by T. Fisher Unwin.

Mr. Lewis A. Long, the acting-manager of the Theatre Royal, Bath, takes his annual benefit performances on Saturday, April 19, when the farcical comedy, "The Elderdown Quilt," will be the attraction. The benefice has the promised assistance of the cream of local amateur talent in casting the piece, and Mr. Long will be his own producer.

Mr. Halford Forster, advance manager for the Quinlan Opera Company, sailed on Friday from Plymouth on the s.s. Demosthenes for South Africa and Australia, to make the final arrangements in the Colonies for the production of the "Ring of the Nibelung." In addition to Wagner's masterpiece, Mr. Quinlan will tour twenty-three other operas, and a company of 170 artists.

"VANITY."

Play, in Three Acts, by Ernest Denny, Produced at the Globe Theatre on Tuesday, April 1.

Miss Fry Miss Phyllis Verrall
Hope Miss Caroline Bayley
Prudence Miss Ruth Bidwell
Ada Kemp Miss Mabelle Hunt
Dickson Miss Mabel Trevor
Jefferson Brown Mr. Guy Standing
Dick Broderick Mr. Paul Arthur
Augustus King Mr. Townsend Whitting
Lord Cazalet Mr. James Lindsay
Pilgrim Fry Mr. Eric Marbo
Vanity Miss Ethel Irving

Miss Ethel Irving began her season at the Globe Theatre on Tuesday evening with a play by Mr. Ernest Denny, the author of "All-of-a-Sudden Peggy," entitled "Vanity." On the programme appears Burns' well-known quotation, "O, wad some power the giftie gie us To see ourselves as others see us!"

This excellent principle, which is embodied in "Vanity," has been capably developed by the author, and the play, though slight in texture, is brightly and amusingly written.

Miss Vanity Fry, a musical comedy star, known professionally as "Vanity Fayre," is a lovable, gay, attractive creature, overflowing with temperament, but utterly spoilt by success, which has made her vain, selfish, and inconsiderate. She has taken her younger sister Prudence to live with her, and has turned her into a slave; and she allows her elder sister, Hope, and her brother, Pilgrim, to lack the necessities of life, while she fritters away her large salary on gew-gaws and frivolities, and is practically distressed that she cannot help them, because, as she says, "it is so frightfully expensive to be well off." A year earlier Vanity has secretly engaged herself to a man without a fortune, Jefferson Brown, with whom she is genuinely in love; but while he is away "making his pile," she casually engages herself to a certain Lord Cazalet at a supper party, merely in order to distract attention from a more gorgeously-gowned rival. Vanity has no intention of marrying "Cazy," and explains the reason of the sudden engagement thus:—"Cynthia's frock was the ace, Cazy was trumps, and I played him"; and she promises to "explain him away" to Jefferson Brown in two minutes.

Jefferson, arriving unexpectedly, is more difficult to convince than Vanity had imagined. So annoyed is he at finding her betrothed to two men at the same time that he breaks off his engagement, and takes his leave. Blow number one for Vanity; and while she is still smarting from it comes blow number two—a refusal from her manager to accept the terms of her new contract. Furious with pique, she vows she will teach both men a lesson, and will prove that she is indispensable. To do this she adopts the device of disappearing, and allowing her death to be announced.

She subsequently returns disguised as an old Quaker aunt of the family, prepared to reveal in the grief which she imagines that her relations and friends will feel at her loss. Then comes her disillusionment; there is no regret at her loss, only satisfaction at the acquisition of her property. Here lies the weakness of the play; the callousness displayed by the brother and sisters is obnoxious, and inconsistent with the previous reading of their characters, and, in the case of Vanity, the transition from an obsession of egotism to a state of angelic unselfishness and goodness is too sudden; there should be a period, at least, of bitter repentance. There is one flash in the pan when Jefferson Brown, unknown to her, penetrates her disguise, and, in order to give her a lesson, forces her to listen to some unpalatable home-truths, i.e., "What poor Vanity wanted all the time was an audience." "She was a good woman just spoilt by vanity." "When her vanity tempted her, she would stop at nothing." "She just didn't think"—and poor, wounded Vanity reflects bitterly: "It's bad enough to hear lies, but it's nothing to hearing the plain unvarnished truth." The lesson is taken to heart, Vanity throws off her disguise, apologises sweetly and tearfully to her hard-hearted family for her former selfishness, renounces her career, after a struggle, in favour of sister Prudence, and finds compensation in the arms of Jefferson Brown.

Undoubtedly the success scored by the play is largely due to the remarkably clever acting of Miss Ethel Irving as Vanity. She has an opportunity to display, first, her fine gift of comedy, and, secondly, her sincere and beautiful gift of pathos, though she is not called upon to display her wonderful power of expressing intense emotion. In the first act she plays beautifully as the fascinating butterfly type of woman, thoughtless and frivolous, perpetually sunning herself in popularity, feeding on admiration, living for the moment. In her second phase, she reminds one of a butterfly caught in a shower, with wet wings incapable of flight, beaten to the hard ground of reality, from which she rises purified and ennobled, no longer a butterfly, but a woman who sees with open eyes. The charm of Miss Irving's personality is very great; and it is enhanced by the exquisite modulations of her beautiful voice. That she lives in her part while she is acting is evident by the exhaustion from which she was suffering when she took her repeated calls on Tuesday night. Mr. Guy Standing played Jefferson Brown with a bluff, sound heartiness that is an excellent foil to the nervous delicacy of Miss Irving's acting; and he puts a very clever touch of understanding into his impersonation of the hard-headed business man. Mr. Paul Arthur is delightful as Dick Broderick, Vanity's confident and solicitor, "straight but slow." He is one of our easiest and most natural actors, and is possessed of invaluable geniality. Miss Caroline Bayley plays very well as the unsympathetic sister Hope. She essays a difficult rôle, and comes through the ordeal successfully. Miss Ruth Bidwell gives a very pretty little sketch of a downtrodden amiable girl, innately sweet and gentle, and sings delightfully a verse of a charming song, with music specially composed by Mr. Herman Finck. Mr. James Lindsay as Lord Cazalet deserves special mention for a humorous and convincing picture of a foolish nobleman of vague principles. Miss Mabelle Hunt looks exceedingly smart as Vanity's private paragonist, and plays with a brisk and business-like air that suits the part admirably. Miss Mabel Trevor as Vanity's maid has one good chance, and takes it. It comes when the maid is terror-struck at seeing her mistress in the flesh, when she has imagined her dead for some time; and her hardly-controlled hysteria is extremely well done. Mr. Townsend Whitting is very pleasant and reassuring as a theatrical manager, and Mr. Eric Marbo plays effectively as Vanity's brother. The play is admirably produced by Mr. Dion Boucicault, and the scenery by Mr. Walter Hann is very artistic.

Messrs. J. E. Vedrenne and Dennis Radie will produce at one of their special matinees at the Royal Theatre on Tuesday, April 22, two new pieces—the one-act play, "The Harbour Watch," by Mr. Rudyard Kipling, about which so much has been heard of late, and "Thompson," a comedy commenced by the late Mr. St. John Hankin and finished by George Calderon.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DAS BUCH DER FRAU." Comedy, in Three Acts, by Lother Schmidt, Produced at the Königgrätzer Strasse Theatre, March 28.

Lebius Herr Gebühr
Frau Lebius Fräulein Waldegg
Seidel Herr Burg
Frau Berg Fräulein Serda
Klaus Fräulein Stolke
Hete Fräulein Schwarzkopf
Frau Haberland Fräulein Engl
Frau Hennig Fräulein Brenden
Berta Fräulein Haensel
Ida Fräulein Bonza
Schmittlein Herr Botz

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
BERLIN, Thursday, April 3.—Herr Lother Schmidt's latest dramatic effort met with a very cordial reception, and the author was called several times before the curtain. It is a poor little plot, and one which we have seen before—with variations—often enough, but it is full of bright and even witty dialogue, and one or two of the scenes are entertaining. To go into detail is superfluous; a few words will be sufficient. Dr. Lebius is a "literary gent," who believes he has a keen eye for the psychological turn of the fair sex; in fact, he edits a magazine entitled "Die Psyche der Frau." Of course, the good man has no eyes for what passes around him, and his own wife is quite aware of the fact. She deceives him under his very nose, and with his best friend, whose wife is also a friend of Frau Lebius. The morals of a good many persons in the play are elastic in the extreme. The joke is that Frau Lebius in her spare moments writes magazine articles, and one appears anonymously, of course—in Dr. Lebius's own paper. It is entitled, "How I Cheated My Husband!" The end perhaps, falls off a little, but otherwise the piece runs brightly and very swiftly from start to finish. If it were not taken at the quick pace it is the success would certainly have been less. Altogether, the acting was adequate, the best renderings being those of Fräulein Waldegg and Herren Gebühr and Burg, which were capital.

Puccini's new opera, "The Girl of the Golden West," was produced on Friday last before a distinguished audience at the new Deutsches Opera House, at Charlottenburg, in the West of Berlin. It cannot be said that an enthusiastic reception was accorded. It was friendly, and that was all, and I do not fancy it will hold the boards for anything like a length of time. Certainly it will never rival in the remotest measure "Madama Butterfly," or even "La Tosca." As regards the interpretation, it might perhaps have been better, but the mounting was satisfactory, the management doing their utmost to achieve a success. When Signor Puccini appeared in response to the applause, he brought with him Fräulein Stolzenberg to share in the expressions of appreciation. She sang and acted the name-part with genuine success, and deserved all the applause she received. The critics are thoroughly dissatisfied, some even caustic. One goes so far as to declare the "Girl of the Golden West" is only fit and suitable for a film show, and all agree that while the opera has a few fine moments that are in the composer's best manner, it is on the whole weak in character and far behind his previous works.

The Schiller Theatre produced with unquestionable success "Cyrano de Bergerac" on Saturday, the translation being the excellent one by Dr. Ludwig Fulda already given at another of our theatres. Both interpretation and staging were worthy of much commendation, and, judging from the enthusiastic reception, a lengthy run may be predicted.

Exl's Tyrolean Company are at Kroll's Theatre, and doing good business. While this company does not come up to the famous Schillersee Peasants it is nevertheless marked by spontaneous gaiety and distinct talent in serious plays. The guests have produced several novelties for Berlin audiences, all of which have done well up to the present.

Under new management the Friedrich Wilhelm Städtisches Theatre has revived Paul Lücke's amusing vaudeville-opera "Grigri." It is drawing good houses, and, being very vivaciously acted, will probably start on a new lease of long life.

BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE.

It would be difficult to imagine a greater contrast between the two plays, "The Countess Cathleen" and "Press Cuttings," produced in Repertory at the above theatre this week. The former is a poetical allegory, while the latter is simply "G. B. S." rampant. The best thing in "The Countess Cathleen" was the delightful creation of the name-part by Miss Madge McIntosh.

She rose to the occasion, and skilfully portrayed the large sympathies and emotions of the sweet lady whose one theme meant self-sacrifice. Mr. Scott Sunderland struck a tragic note as the Poet, Aleel, Mr. Ribton Haines capably rendered the penurious and starving Shemus Rua, and Mr. Stuart Vinden was admirable as Teig, his son. Miss Margaret Dudley satisfactorily dealt with the part of Mary Rua, wife of Shemus.

Miss Margaret Chatwin seemed at home in the character of Oona. The two demons, disguised as merchants, were picturesque and sound pieces of character drawing by Messrs. Felix Aymer and Ivor Barnard. The other numerous characters of peasants and women were ably dealt with by the members of the company.

"Press Cuttings," which followed, played briskly to the accompaniment of much laughter and applause. Mr. E. Stuart Vinden displayed marked versatility in adapting himself to the requirements of the irascible General Bones. Mr. Barry V. Jackson was entirely successful as Johnson, the Prime Minister.

Mr. John Darnley caused much amusement by his quaint delivery and gestures in the part of the Orderly. Miss Anne de Lacey gave a neat study of the affected Anti-Suffragist, Lady Cornithia Fanshawe. Mrs. Banger was played in just right manner by Miss Margaret Chatwin, and Miss Rochelle Thomas was applauded for her clever sketch of Mrs. Farrell.

THE ACTORS' ORPHANAGE.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the following contributions received during the month of March—

Cyril Maude (autos), 13s. 3d.; Miss Cicely Richards, 21 1s.; A. S. Homewood, 21 1s.; Herbert Plowright (autos, per Mrs. Gay), 5s.; Mrs. Ellis (per J. W. Matthews), 1s.; Miss Hunt (per the Play Pictorial), 1s.; F. Rudge (per Miss Renee Mayer), 6s.

PENNY COLLECTIONS.

"Quaker Girl" South Co. (per W. L. Clement), 21 9s., including proceeds of football match; "Fanny's First Play" Co. (per Miss Marie Rigold), 3s. 6d.; Mr. and Mrs. Percy Brown's Co. (per Miss Kathleen Magee), 4s. 6d.; "Only a Mill Girl" Co. (per Miss Daisy Cook), 3s. 4d.; "Quaker Girl" South Co. (per Miss Maud Denny), 21 17s. 4d.; "Sign of the Cross" Co. (per Martin Palmer), 18s. 8d.; "Bunty Pulls the Strings" North Co. (per F. C. Pool), 10s.; "Sorrows of Satan" Co. (per Miss Lois Emond), 12s.; "For Wife and Kingdom" Co. (per Miss Hattie Zillwood), 8s.; "Ben Hur" Co. (per Miss Mildred Cottell and B. Hutton Sinclair), 21 14s.; New Prince's Theatre Co. (per Miss Blanche Stanton), 7s.; "Queen Mother" Co. (per Miss Mary Fulton), 5s.; Drury Lane Pantomime Co. (per Miss Renee Mayer), 210.

ON THE ROAD, APRIL 7.

ALLAN'S ORCHARD.—T.R., Barnsley.
AMAZONS, THE.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
AN INDIAN GIRL'S DEVOTION.—Grand T., Nottingham.
ARCADIANS, THE.—King's T., Sunderland.
ARCADIANS, THE.—New T., Worcester.
AS YOUR HAIR GROWS WHITER.—Alex. T., Hull.
AUTUMN MANOEUVRES.—Leicester.
BALKAN PRINCESS.—T.R., Portsmouth.
BELLA DONNA.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
BELLA DONNA (LIMPUS).—Daleston Theatre, N.E.
BENSON, F. R.—Grand T., Hull.
BENSON, F. R. (HERBERT).—O.H., Middlesbrough.
BENSON, F. R. (S.).—Penzance and Falmouth.
BONNIE MARY.—Century T., Motherwell.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—T.R., Nottingham.
BUNNY PULLS THE STRINGS (S.).—Lycum T., Sheffield.
BUNNY PULLS THE STRINGS (N.).—Leeds.
BUTTERFLY ON THE WHEEL.—Grand T., Accrington.
CARL ROSA OPERA.—Empire T., Coventry.
CATTLE THEFT.—Queen's T., Dublin.
CHARLEY'S AUNT.—Prince's T., Bristol.
CHOCOLATE SOLDIER (No. 1).—T.R., South Shields.
CHOCOLATE SOLDIER (No. 2).—Grand T., Southampton.
CINGALES, THE.—Empire T., Swindon.
CLAUDIAN.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
CLEVER IMPOSTOR.—A.T.R., Castleford.
COLLIER'S LASS, THE (N.).—T.R., Rochdale.
COLLIER'S LASS (S.).—King's T., Worsley.
COLOMBO GIRL, THE.—P.O.W., Nuneaton.
COUNT OF LUXEMBOURG (EDWARDS).—Grand T., Nelson.
DAD.—Winter Gardens, New Brighton.
DICKIE CLARE.—Palace T., Ramsgate.
DRAKE.—Plymouth.
DRAPER, MARCUS.—Queen's Park H., Manchester.
DUST OF EGYPT.—T.R., Margate.
EAST WAY, THE.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
EAST LYNNE (PITT-HARDACE).—T.R., Huddersfield.
EVERYBODY.—P.O.W., Birmingham.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—Grand T., Mansfield.
FATAL WEDDING.—Grand T., Glasgow.
FIND THE WOMAN.—O.H., Northampton.
GARROD, MR. W. V.—T.R., Sheffield.
GAY LORD QUEX.—Prince's T., Manchester.
GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE (P.).—T.R., Seaham Harbour.
GIPSY LOVE.—T.R., Newcastle.
GIPSY LOVE.—P.O.W., Grimsby.
GIRL IN THE TRAIN (N.).—Lycum T., Ipswich.
GIRL OF MY HEART.—T.R., Rotherham.
GIRL'S GOOD LUCK.—A. Hippodrome, Huddersfield.
GLAD EYE (MEYER).—T.R., Bournemouth.
GLAD EYE (MEYER).—T.R., Bradford.
GLORYVILLE AND OSWALD.—Grand T., Nottingham.
HARVEY, MR. MARTIN.—Lycum T., Edinburgh.
HER RUINED LIFE.—T.R., Aston.
HINDLE WAKES.—Gaiety T., Ayr.
HINDLE WAKES.—T.R., Halifax.
HINDLE WAKES.—T.R., Hyde.
HINDLE WAKES.—Fulham Theatre, S.W.
IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (No. 2).—Pavilion, Weymouth.
IMPROPER PETER.—T.R., Norwich.
INDIAN SOOT, THE.—Grand T., Halifax.
KISMET (DANCE).—Nuneaton.
KISMET (S.).—Bury.
KIT CARSON.—Empire T., Holloway, N.

LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Fakenham and Hoddesdon.
LITTLE DAME.—O.H., Buxton.
LONGER PACEY REPT.—Hippodrome, Preston.
LOMATH, MR. STUART.—T.R., Dewsbury.
MAN AND SUPERMAN.—Royalty T., Chester.
MAN TO MAN.—T.R., Woolwich.
MARSH, ALEXANDER, SHAKESPEARE.—Court T., Wigan.
MILTONS (RED).—H.M.T., Aberdeen.
MILTONS (WHITE).—New T.R., Birkenhead.
MILTONS (BLUE).—T.R., Exeter.
MIRACLE, THE.—Olympia, Liverpool.
MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND.—T.R., Leamington.
MOODY MANNERS OPERA.—Grand T., Swansea.
MORMON AND HIS WIVES.—Britannia T., Hexton.
MORMON AND THE MAID.—Alex. T., Sheffield.
MOTHER'S LOVE.—Lycum T., Hammersmith, W.
NICK CARTER.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
OLD HOME, THE.—Queen's T., Poplar, E.
O'MARA OPERA CO.—Paisley T., Paisley.
PINK LADY, THE.—T.R., Derby.
PINK LADY, THE.—T.R., Birmingham.
PRAIRIE OUTLAW.—Victoria T., Burnley.
PRAIRIE OF BYZANTIA.—Hippo, Hulme.
PRIDE OF THE PRAIRIE.—Gaiety T., Dundee.
PRINCESS CAPRIC.—Court T., Liverpool.
PROUD MAISIE.—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
QUAKER GIRL (E.).—O.H., Leicester.
QUEEN FOR A WIFE.—A. Hippodrome, Bilston.
QUEEN OF THE REDSKINS (S.).—T.R., Sunderland.
READY MONEY (FENTON).—T.R., Colchester.
ROUND UP, THE.—Court T., Warrington.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—A.T.R., Bristol.
ROYAL REPT. CO.—T.R., Edinburgh.
SHEPHERD OF LONESOME PINE.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
SILVER KING.—Broadway T., Deptford.
SLEDGE-HAMMER.—The.—Grand T., Doncaster.
SOLDIER PRINCESS.—Wimbledon Theatre, S.W.
SPECTACLE BAND, THE.—Kely's T., Liverpool.
STILL ALARM.—Metropole T., Bootle.
SUNSHINE GIRL (EDWARDS).—King's T., Glasgow.
SUNSHINE GIRL, THE.—Coronet Theatre, W.
SWEET NELL OF OLD DUBLIN.—T.R., Bolton.
TEMPRESS OF PARIS.—Pavilion T., Earlsdown.
THIEF, THE.—T.R., Ashton.
THROUGH DEATH VALLEY.—King's T., Sutton-in-Ash.
TURNING POINT, THE.—O.H., Southampton.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—Princess T., Glasgow.
WALT DREAM.—Grand T., Croydon.
WALT DREAM (S.).—Crystal Palace Theatre, N.E.
WAVE AND MEANS.—O.H., Cheltenham.
WESTWARD HO!—Borough Theatre, Stratford.
WHAT HAPPENED TO JONES.—County T., Bangor.
WHAT WOMEN WILL DO FOR LOVE.—Met. T., Glasgow.
WHEN OTHER LIPS.—T.R., Belfast.
WHIP (S.).—Stockton.
WHITE GIRL SLAVE, THE.—Gaiety T., Houghton.
WHITE SLAVE (N.).—Prince's T., Bradford.
WHITE SLAVE (S.).—Haggart's T., Llanelli.
WIFE FOR A DAY, A.—T.R., Sheffield.
WITNESS FOR THE DEFENCE.—T.R., Ashton-under-Lyne.
YOUNG BUFFALO.—Grand T., Blackpool.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Palace T., Gloucester.

SUNDAY'S TRAIN CALLS.

By the courtesy of the various railway companies we are enabled to give the following particulars regarding the movements of theatrical and music hall touring companies travelling by rail to-morrow:

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.
The following companies will travel by the above route to-morrow (Sunday):—Carl Rosa Opera, Cheltenham to Paisley; Mr. Geo. Edwards' "Dollar Princess," Wigan to Manchester; "The Pink Lady," Hanley to Birmingham; "Chocolate Soldier," Birkenhead to London; "Quaker Girl," Warrington to London; the Follies, Brighton to Manchester; "Proud Maizie," Newcastle to Liverpool; "Bella Donna," Southampton to Wolverhampton; "Milestones," Manchester to Glasgow; "Black and White of the Regiment," Birmingham to Blackburn; "Temptress of Paris," Smithwick to Earlsdown; "Send Him Victorious," Wolverhampton to Pontefract; "Girl's Good Luck," Cannock to Huddersfield; "The Hydrant," Manchester to London; "Night in Egypt," Northampton to Southampton; "Cowboy's Revenge," Nuneaton to Brighton; Carl Hertz, Glasgow to Kingston-on-Thames; Turner Opera, Leigh and Bedford to Spennymoor; "White Girl Slave," Manchester to Fenchurches; "Queen of the Night," Bedford to Spennymoor; "When a Girl," Stockport to Newcastle; "River Girl," Dewsbury to West Hartlepool; "I Defy the World," Great Harwood to Macclesfield; Woulfe's Repertoire, Burnley to Longton; "Roms," Newcastle to Liverpool; "Mill to Mansion," Newcastle to Widnes; "His Child Wife," Leeds to Birkenhead; "Sapho," St. Helens to Liverpool; Alex. Shepherdson, Manchester to Liverpool; Alex. Marsh's Co., St. Helens to Wigan; "Ways and Means," Crewe to Cheltenham; "Lord Harkaway," Earlsdown to Leicester; "Pet of the Ranch," Liverpool to Wolverhampton; "10.30 Down Express," Bangor to Gloucester; "Round," Birkenhead to Warrington; "East Lynne," Dudley to Southend; "Dormants," Birmingham to Woolwich; "Rainbows," Warrington to Barrow; Lew Lake's Co., Birmingham to Bolton; "What Happened to Jones," Stafford to Bangor; "Glad Eye," Rawtenstall to Dudley; "Ready Money," Manchester to Northampton; "Younger Generation," Coventry to Peterborough; "Marked Money," Glasgow to Leeds; Royce Repertoire Co., Newcastle to Edinburgh; "Lively Lucerne," Newcastle to Edinburgh; "The Great Detective," Newcastle to Middlesbrough; "Bunny Pulls the Strings," South Shields to Darlington; Benson's Co., West Hartlepool to Middlesbrough.

THE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

The following companies will travel over the above railway to-morrow (Sunday):—Julia Nelson Co., Dundee to Bolton; Carl Hertz Co., Glasgow to King's Cross; "Marked Money," Glasgow to Leeds; Royce Repertoire Co., Newcastle to Edinburgh; "Lively Lucerne," Newcastle to Edinburgh; "The Great Detective," Newcastle to Middlesbrough; "Bunny Pulls the Strings," South Shields to Darlington; Benson's Co., West Hartlepool to Middlesbrough.

A "MOTHER HUBBARD" SUPPER.

At a jolly supper-party of the members of Mr. Henry McKelvie's "Mother Hubbard" pantomime company at Glasgow on Wednesday night many congratulations were exchanged at the phenomenal success achieved. The tour has already lasted eighteen weeks, and they have two weeks to run after leaving the Princess's, Glasgow. In addition to the handsome gold watch and fob presented by Mr. McKelvie to Mr. Harry Henderson, general manager and conductor of the tour, a beautifully designed solid silver inkstand representing "Mother Hubbard and Her Dog," with an appropriate inscription, was presented to Mr. Henry McKelvie by the members of the company, and this was accompanied by an address in the following terms:—

"Harry McKelvie, Esq.,
"Sir,—We, the undersigned principals in your 'Mother Hubbard' pantomime, 1912-1913, beg to express to you our sense of the uninterrupted courtesy and good fellowship which has prevailed during the run, which is now a record for pantomime. We also desire you to accept the accompanying memento of this appreciation on our

part and to express our hope that you may yet have more remarkable successes.—Edie Haley, Maggie Fraser, Retta Halket, Violet Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Birmingham, Mr. and Mrs. Randle Wilson, Mr. Mrs., and Miss James Stephens, Sam Lavelle, Jack Lavelle, Chas. Jackson, Harry Henderson."

In our issue of March 22 we announced with regret (says "South Africa") the death of Mr. Frank Sutton-Vane, the distinguished actor and playwright, at one time very well-known and highly respected in South Africa. He was 65 years of age, and as we have already stated, had been ailing for several years. Durbanites will remember that he married a daughter of the late Mr. John Hunt, of the firm of Messrs. Hunt, Leuchars, and Hepburn, and at one time Mayor of Durban. Returning to England twenty-six years ago, he had resided at Hove with his family for the last fourteen years. He was an artist of great ability, and he founded the firm of Messrs. Bennett and Davis, printers and lithographic artists in Durban. He was a gentleman of rare charm and a genial raconteur. In his later years he wrote for the music hall stage.

MASONS AT WORK.

CHELSEA CHAPTER.

The regular convocation of this Chapter was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on Friday, the 28th ult., ex-Comp. Dehune, in the absence of ex-Comp. Harry Bawn, acting as M.E.Z., W. H. Atlas H., C. J. Doughty J., Wolfe Lyon acting S.E. and Treasurer, A. T. Chamberlain S.N., G. H. Dyball acting P.S., Ernie Warsaw Org., and ex-Comp. J. Gilbert, Janitor. The M.E.Z., assisted by his officers, exalted Messrs. Tom Morton and Philip Sheridan. A ballot was taken for the election of officers for ensuing year, and in each case resulted in the unanimous election of W. H. Atlas as Z.; C. G. Doughty, H. G. H. Dyball, J. W. H. Hitch, S.E.; Monte Bayly S.N.; Frank Hardie, P.S.; A. T. Earnshaw, 1st A.S.; J. T. W. Grant, 2nd A.S.; Wolfe Lyon, Treasurer; A. T. Chamberlain, D.C.; Ernie Warsaw, Org.; F. E. H. Macrae and C. H. Burton, Stewards; J. Gilbert, Janitor. On the proposition of the treasurer it was resolved to present Mr. E. C. Harry Bawn with a P.Z. Jewel, the members and visitors adjourning, as usual, to the Boulogne Restaurant for dinner.

PROSCENIUM LODGE.

The officers of this Lodge, upon arrival at the Town Hall, Chelsea, on Tuesday last, found a large number of the members present to greet them. The Lodge was quickly formed by Frank Hardie, W.M.; Monte Bayly, Acting S.W.; Harry Bawn, Acting J.W.; W. S. Lyon, Treasurer; C. G. Doughty, I.P.M. and Secretary; J. Grant, S.D.; W. Duffon, J.D.; Ernie Lester, I.G.; S. Lyndon, Org.; Stanley Palmer, Steward; J. H. McNaughton Tyler. The W.M., having received a telephone message calling him away on urgent business, previously to leaving, invested Monte Bayly as S.W., and retired from the chair in favour of the I.P.M., C. J. Doughty, who initiated Messrs. Dan Whitley, Herbert M. Darsie, and Mark Manners into the mysteries and privileges of the Order, and retired in order to permit Mr. Harry Bawn to initiate his Musical-Director, Mr. Max Reinhardt. The ceremony being completed, the compliment was paid Mr. W. Duffon, one of the youngest initiates of the Lodge, of being asked to deliver the charge associated with the proceedings, who discharged that duty in a manner to call forth the warmest praise of his listeners. Mr. Doughty again resumed the chair, and advanced Messrs. J. C. McMahon, Rich Taylor, and John Enzer. A goodly array of visitors, including Messrs. Bernard Cohen 1658, Ernie Lester 3098, Henry Ward 3318, H. Day 71, Amandus 3098, Frank Lannon 2012, H. S. Henderson 405, and A. T. Chamberlain 862, accompanied the members to the adjoining hostelry, the Six Bells, for refreshments.

THE HARROGATE SEASON.

By far the most important announcement about the Harrogate season, writes a correspondent in "The Musical Standard," is that Mr. Julian Clifford will again occupy the conductor's desk, a fact which may be taken as an indication that the high standard of previous years will be maintained. The orchestra will again be at the same strength as that of last season, namely, thirty members up to Whitsuntide, when it rises to fifty strong for the remainder of the season. Another most gratifying feature is that the symphony concerts will be continued along the usual lines, and Mr. Clifford has secured many old favourites as well as much new talent. Amongst the names that appear may be mentioned the following:—Mme. Tosta de Benici, Miss Tina Lerner, Arthur Newstead and Sidney Rosenbloom (pianists); whilst those interested in string players will welcome the return of Misses Ivy Angove and Margery Bentwich, two of our most able lady violinists, and be delighted to renew acquaintance with Messrs. John Lawson (who will again be leader of the orchestra) and Andre Ribaudiere. Mr. Julian Clifford evidently is not going to neglect native music. He should feel stimulated by the success of his efforts in this direction last season, when many British works met with a most cordial reception. British composers who will conduct their own works on Wednesday afternoons include Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Messrs. Carlowitz Ames, Edmondstone Duncan, J. D. Davis, and Dr. Ethel Smythe; whilst Mr. Arthur Harvey and Mr. Ernest Farrer, the latter, who is organist of Christ Church, Harrogate, are writing new works specially for this series of concerts. As these concerts, however, appeal to only a section of the general audience, Mr. Clifford will be well advised to follow up the successful experiment of last year, and include an occasional programme devoted entirely to British music. The last evening of this description was an almost unqualified success. Before leaving the subject of the symphony concerts I should like to mention that Beethoven's Fourth Symphony is a somewhat unjustly neglected work, and one which many music-lovers would gladly see included in the Harrogate programmes.

On Wednesday last, at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, the part of Stephen Baird in "Ready Money" was played at both performances with great success by Mr. Cedric Percival.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped addressed Envelope must be enclosed with application for each Letter. No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this List.

Amulets, The Andrus, Mr. Neville Armstrong, Mr. Richard Bancroft, Mr. C. James Barrow, Mrs. E. M. Beach, Mr. Fred Beaumont, Mr. E. R. Beck, Miss Clara Beckwith, Mr. W. Bedell, Mr. C. B. Biddell, Mr. W. Bouverie, Miss Nellie Brown, Mr. Samuel W. Brumley, Mr. J. Buckley, Mr. R. Bute, Mr. L. Calcutt, Miss Clacie Capelle, Miss Babs Carlton, Miss Bessie Champion, Miss Doris Charrington, Mr. Chas. Chumley and Davis Collins, Mr. Joe Conner, Mr. T. J. Conquest, Mr. Arthur Cook, Mr. Clyde Corrill, Miss J. Cotton, Mrs. Wilfred Couch, Mr. Frank Cronin, Mr. M. Dairymple, Mr. L. De Caro, Signor Dene, Miss Ivy Dix, Miss Dorothy Douglas, Mr. Byron Drescher, Miss C. C. Drew, Mr. John E. Drury, Miss Lily	Duse, Mme. Eleonora Elliot, Mr. A. Fawn, Mr. James Fay, Mr. Percy Finch, Mr. Harris Fossett, Mr. Bob Fraser, Miss Dora Freedman, Mr. J. Garnham, Miss E. Gess, Mr. Henry Glyn, Miss Goddard, Mr. A. Godfrey, Mr. Arthur Godfrey, The Musical Granville, Miss May Graves, Mr. Geo. Green, Miss Freda Grenfell, Miss Edith Hawkins, Miss Iris Hinchcliffe, Mr. W. Hoffman, Mr. Maurice Holden, Mr. Thomas Holland, Mr. Ellis R. Holloway, Mr. Hornsey, Mr. Leonard Inglis, Mr. J. W. T. Jacobson, Mr. Jesse Kelly, Miss B. Kendall, Mr. and Mrs. Kent, Mr. T. F. Lane, Mr. D'Arcy Lane, Mr. Montague Lawrence, Mr. Clem Lea, Miss Lillian Leese, Mr. P. D. Leif, Miss Tiny Leonard, Mr. Frank Le Roy, Prof.	Leslie Brothers Lewis, Mr. Arthur Limbart, Mr. Roy Lind, Miss Letty Lindsay, Mr. Kenneth Lloyd, Miss Florence Lodge, Mr. Ernest Lorraine, Miss Irma Lowery's Boys and Girls Macarte, Sisters Macfadden, Mr. Harry Macinno, Mr. Ewart McMikol, Miss Mattie Macmillan, Miss N. Macnam, Miss Evelyn Macpherson, Miss K. Mars, Miss May Martin, Mr. Magill Mayne, Miss Clarice Mead, Mr. J. H. Merello, Miss M. Morrison, The Michel Brothers Monahan, Mr. G. S. Morris, Mr. Allen Netherole, Miss Olga Nibo and Spencer Norcross, Miss Ethel Norrie, Mr. Russell Nuku, Mr. H. M. Ormonde, Miss M. Osborne, Mr. Chas. Osborne, Mr. J. Paul, Mr. T. N. Pearce, Mr. Laurence Pinder, Mr. Eddy Pittard, Mr. R. S. Powell, Mr. A.	Preston, Mr. J. F. Purchase, Mr. A. Raymond, Mr. A. Reano, Mr. T. Hayden Rey, Madam A. Ridding, Mr. Geo. Robertson, Miss Agnes Russell, Mr. Leonard Saeval, Mr. A. Seare, Mr. Selvidge, Mr. Bob Seymour, Miss Maude Seymour, Mr. O. G. Seymour, Mr. Tom Shrapnel, Mr. L. Sincilar, Mr. Tom E. Smith Family Stafford, Miss L. Stewart, Mr. J. A. Storey, Mr. Tom Stuart, Miss Eva Stuart, Miss Mamie Summers, The Summers, Mrs. Mary Talbert, Mr. Taylor, Captain Frank Taylor, Rev. A. R. Toy, Mr. Henry S. V. Boryl, Miss Walls, Mr. Tom Walsh, Mr. James Ward, Miss Dorothy Ward, Miss Fanny Warne, Miss Olive Whelan, Mr. Albert Whittle, Mr. Chas. Williams, Mr. Gwen Wynne, Mr. Gerald Zuma
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RE-ADDRESSING.

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A DESERVING INSTITUTION.

During the past eight years the management of the Charing Cross Hospital have made strenuous efforts to place this institution on a sound financial basis, and it redounds greatly to their credit to be able to state that in this short time their debt has been reduced by £35,000. But there remains a balance of £62,000 still to be paid. The sum required is £70,000. Amongst the improvements contemplated are (1) opening a free children's ward and (2) re-opening five closed wards as pay wards. The proposed pay wards are for those who are unwilling to accept any form of charity, yet are quite unable to afford surgeon's fees and nursing home expenses. They are sure to prove a boon to thousands of sufferers possessed of only moderate incomes, as the small fee charged, viz., two guineas per week, including operations, will come more easily within their means. Only recently, the late Mr. Richard Temple passed away at Charing Cross. The secretary for the appeal is Mr. A. C. Fotheringham Lyons, to whom all letters should be addressed. Cheques and postal orders should be crossed payable to Charing Cross Hospital, and marked "The Earl of Lonsdale's Appeal."

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NEW MIDDLESEX THEATRE.

On Monday, March 31, the Play, entitled
"THE RED COAT."

This is an exciting story of life in the stirring times of George III., and its fine presentation by the powerful combination of artists, together with the lavish mounting, correct dresses and uniforms and effects, won the admiration of a large and enthusiastic audience. A performance of the highest finish was that of the experienced actor, Mr. Julian Cross, whose natural portrayal of the old aristocrat, Lord Ledbury, left nothing to be desired. Mr. Edwin A. Bennett proved acceptable in his depiction of Guise Darnley. Mr. Fred Terrell, by his clever impersonation of Clifford Marl, gained the approbation of the house. In the part of Adam Althea Mr. Frank Woodville is to be complimented for his excellent acting. Mr. Henri Dore was equal to the responsibilities of Pinch Fenchurch. Mr. Will Smith, as a Puritan (Mendacious Gumm), proved that he is an actor of many parts, his droll manner provoking many smiles. Mr. Bryan Daly was capital as the Sergeant (of the King's Horse). In the exacting role of Harriet Marl (Clifford's sister), the scheming, callous, and revengeful disposition of the character were realistically brought out by Miss Sybil Bingham. Miss Hilda Barlow was a very bright and happy exponent of the comedy character, making Poppy (afterwards Mrs. Gumm) a real "live" personality. The many opportunities given to the impersonator of Violet Darnley were taken full advantage of by gifted Miss Grace Hingworth. Little Lily Dwyer was particularly good as Little Edith Darnley, speaking her lines intelligently. Mr. Charles A. East's stage-management also merits favourable notice.

The first part of the programme was devoted to variety. Mr. Karl Howard, the magic muddler, gained plaudits for some smart conjuring tricks; a very popular turn was that by Mr. Charles Norr in his mimetic scene, "Pros at the Races"; Comm, the clever ventriloquist with his new recruit, "Jerry," kept the audience amused. On the Bioxope an amusing film was exhibited showing "The mystic moonstone."

The directory section of "The Era" Annual is greatly enlarged and improved this year, and the value of the publication as a work of reference is, therefore, considerably enhanced. Complete lists and casts of all new plays in London and the provinces, and in New York, Berlin, and Paris, are now included; also lists of new music-hall sketches.—"Daily Express," Feb. 8, 1913.

Many friends of Mr. Cecil Newton will regret to hear that he has been very seriously ill, so much so as to necessitate his immediate return from America, where he has been for some time with the Billie Burke Co., under the management of Mr. Charles Frohman. Troubles, as we know, never come singly. Mr. Newton was going to live at his bungalow, "Sea Breeze," Lancing Beach, Sussex, to recuperate. On his arrival there he found—four pieces of concrete; the bungalow, furniture, books, everything that he possessed, had been washed away in the recent storm. Mr. Newton is now in Paris finishing a new play—a collaboration with that successful American author, Mr. James Montgomery, author of "Ready Money," &c.

"ON TOUR."

A farce in one act, by Wilfrid Stephens. Produced at the New Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden Lane, on Thursday, April 3.

Alphonse Tring Mr. Henry Borrett.
Benjamin Splash Mr. Frank Gillions.
Major D'Arcy Mr. G. Crompton.
Cahman Miss Mona Maughan.
Sadie Bliss Miss Jessie McDonald.
Bridget Miss Jessie McDonald.

"Are you the broker's men or the actors?" is the opening line of a new farce entitled "On Tour," which was given a trial performance at the Rehearsal Theatre on Thursday afternoon. This pertinent query is addressed to a black-muzzled individual who pokes his head through the parlour window of a lodging-house in Brighton on a Sunday morning. He turns out to be the man-in-possession, and proceeds to make himself comfortable. A few moments later there arrive Alphonse Tring and Sadie Bliss, a young actor and actress who have secured the apartments for the week. The broker's man dissembles while the lady reads to her companion an amorous epistle which she had received from an admirer. Alphonse, who is engaged to Sadie, vows vengeance on the new suitor, and is informed by his fiancée that if he is to retain his place in her affections he must blacken his rival's eye. Alphonse undertakes at once to carry out her behest, but his ardour is cooled when he learns that the other man is of commanding figure and boasts "a chest like an ox." He accordingly adopts an unusual method of accomplishing his design. A bag of stale buns lies on the table, and, seizing one, Alphonse shies it with unerring aim through the window right into the eye of a military-looking man who is passing by. He enters to demand an explanation, and Alphonse points to the victim's blackened optic as evidence of his prowess, while the latter threatens legal proceedings. Meanwhile the broker's man, who has been posing as an actor and has been thrown out of the window for making love to Sadie, has to admit that it was he who wrote the love-letter, and departs cheerily to get a drink.

The little playlet, which proved very amusing, owes much to the experience and ingenuity of Mr. Arthur Dale, who "produced" it, and secured a smooth performance. The rôle of the broker's man, who is apparently equal to quoting Shakespeare and any other author by the yard, as occasion demands, was drolly played by Mr. Frank Gillions, a comedian with an excellent style and a clarion-like voice which enables him to give every effect to his lines. Mr. Henry Borrett made a typical young actor, playing with confidence and resource, and Miss Mona Maughan, a smart little soubrette who should be provided with more opportunity, gave the requisite light comedy touch to the flirtations and provoking Sadie. Miss Jessie McDonald is to be credited with a comic character sketch of the "slavery," and the author himself sustained the part of the peppery major. The piece has possibilities which will no doubt be taken full advantage of, and is calculated to provoke hearty merriment with a popular audience.

"LOVE AND A THRONE."

Play, in Four Acts, by C. A. Clarke, Produced at the Elephant and Castle Theatre on Monday, March 24.

Pangar Mr. Percy Ballard
Wenslane Mr. Charles Adair
Prince Gregori Mr. Ernest Digges
General Melachati Mr. Kenyon Gray
Nikyus Mr. Tom J. Taylor
Captain Klitos Mr. S. Conyers Radcliffe
Pericles Mr. Fred G. Kay
Draco Mr. Cyril Teale
Borsal Mr. Albert Murray
Archbishop of Tiris Mr. Joseph Cantor
The Headman Mr. William Hall
Demos Little Violet Lussanne
Piquant Miss Lulu Bowes
Lydia Miss Olive Warne
Helen Miss Genna Lyndon

The action of "Love and a Throne" takes place upon a Greek island in the Aegean Archipelago. The Governor of the seaport of Tiris, is Philip Demetri, a young naval officer, whose wife, Helen, is admired by the libertine, Prince Gregori, Regent of Tiris, in the absence of his cousin, Wenslane, King of Cortania. Wenslane has temporarily resigned the throne under a self-imposed and rather crazy obligation. In the fourth act of the play he returns disguised as a priest, and performs various heroic deeds, one of them being the rescue of Demetri from a dungeon in the fortress where he has been confined by the wicked Regent in pursuance of his adulterous designs. Wenslane also saves Helen from the consequences of her compromising encouragement of Gregori's offer, when she was suffering from an attack of jealousy. Demetri, when free, makes his way to his wife's bedroom in the Palace, where she has allowed Gregori to install her; and the latter, meeting the husband, and imagining that he is there with his wife's connivance, punishes her by condemning her to walk along the streets of Tiris in sackcloth and ashes, to be publicly whipped, and to be beheaded. From these afflictions she is saved by Wenslane, who takes refuge with her and her child in a cavern on a mountain. In the final scene Wenslane resumes his throne, killing Gregori just as he is on the point of being crowned King of Cortania. Mr. Travis Green's capable company did full justice to the picturesque drama at the Elephant and Castle on Easter Monday. Mr. Percy Ballard as Pangar-Wenslane was powerful and regal; Mr. Charles Adair was duly villainous and active as the Regent; Mr. Ernest Digges did well as Demetri; and Mr. Kenyon Gray's Melachati was redolent of boldness and quaint humour. As Klitos and Pericles Mr. S. Conyers Radcliffe and Mr. Fred G. Kay were very effective; and Mr. Cyril Teale contributed an efficient impersonation as Draco. Little Violet Lussanne gave a winning and touching performance as Demos; and Miss Genna Lyndon as Helen depicted complex emotions with considerable skill; Miss Olive Warne doing full justice to the depravity of Lydia, Miss Lulu Bowes being pert and amusing as Piquant, and Mr. Tom J. Taylor giving a droll impersonation of the priestly comic, Nikyas. The piece had a warm reception from the Bank Holiday audience.

Miss Nora Lancaster, who has made a pronounced success in the difficult rôle of Margaret Rolfe in "The Woman in the Case" at the Strand Theatre, has done excellent work in the provinces, although she has been seen frequently of late in London. Miss Lancaster's experience at the Coliseum was novel. It was the largest house she had ever played in, and how she rose to the occasion was evident by the tense silence of the house in Margaret Rolfe's great scene at the end of the third act of the play mentioned. Among other experiences, she has played juvenile lead with Sir Henry Irving during his last tour in America; Peggy in "Mice and Men" with Mr. Forbes-Robertson; the lead in "Business is Business" and "The Ballad Monger" with Sir Herbert Tree; and has also appeared in the principal Shakespearean rôles with Mr. F. R. Benson.

All friends of Chas. Gratton, comedian, will be pleased to know he has completely recovered from his recent lung illness, and will be in the bill again on Monday next at the New Theatre, Cambridge. He wishes to thank through "The Era," all for their kindness and inquiries during his indisposition.

ASPIRANTS' EPISTLES.

Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft, in their "Joint Narrative," give the following amusing samples of applications from people wanting to go on the stage:—

"Honoured Lady
"I was borne in allen Street and i am now pottman at the awan with 2 neks i have no art to continue in my perision so i writ to ask you to putt me on the bords of your theatre i am a borne actor for i citch myself making speeches out of plays in the middel of the nite if you will give me the charnce i will do my duty well and be a credit to your theater if you see your way to give me the charnce i must ask you to say nothink of it to my family yours truly humble servant
"Henry —"

"to Mr. Bangkroft
"dear sir
"could you be so kind as to teake notes of Ellen —'s letter wich i took the libty of writing asking you if you could for kindly infrom har How she Could become a Balled gril as i have a longing desire to become one hoping you will excuse the libty of troublifing you i remain: your obedint
"Ellen —"

"Servent
"wery tall age 19."

"Dear Lady,
"I hope you will pardon me for troubling you but if 'you' will kindly read what 'I' have got to say; you will perhaps, think, that I am justified in writing. I am twenty-two years of age, and have been for a considerable time studying for the stage. I am not merely stage struck; but possess those qualifications which must inevitably make me to its highest 'step'; which is 'that' of expressing extreme passion. I have applied to several theatres but all in vain. But I sincerely hope that you will not follow their example, and 'also' help to rescue me from the poverty and insult to which I have been exposed these last few years. I have not been accustomed to an audience, therefore I should like a few subordinate characters till I regain confidence, once more I ask you kindly to do what I ask you and you will be repaid in a manner you little dream of.
"I am yours
"John —"

"Sir,
"Please pardon me for taking the liberty but it is on account of myself wishing to be an Actor: I feel I never shall be happy until I am one and I can assure you I will not be long learning what I have to learn. I can jump about, but I am only just beginning to learn dancing, they tell me I am like a frog jumping about I am 17 years old and big for my age when I was 15 I played with other girls at pretending to be circus girls I can sing pretty well this writing look something dreadful but I am writing it at work and I am in a hurry your Resply
"Ethel —"

"Sir,
"I am a young man age 20 my hight is 5ft 7in light weight (Excuse the term please) very good looking and Nimble should like to get into your theatre I have a good strong Voice and a distinct plain and good pronunciation. Quick at learning parts I will Agree to any proposition you make I have friends of position in various parts of England and shall do my Best to please you all I ask in Return is to have an allowance just for the necessities and would like to live on premises but be content with a Small room in the vicinity I beg the honour of Being yours
"obediently
"Mr. Frank —"

"My dear sir I am of Course single do not smoke or drink."

"dear Sir
"I have a grate desire to become An actorist I have not Been on the stage before But ive allways wished to become one I have Nither Father nor Mother I have two brothers that all the friends i have so i am in the world alone So if you or any one would take me I should be extremely thankful I have been in service but its no good its seems if ive been made for the stage its allways in my hed and i am sure i would soon be a good actorist I went to the Princess and the door Keeper He told me to write to any of the managers Sir i am not a Londer but yorkshire Girl i was 16 years old Last february
"i remain
"yours
"Respectfully
"M — N —
"hamstedd
"Road
"N.V."

The hopes we entertained that the dramatic profession had somewhat risen in public esteem were a little dashed when we found they evidently were not shared by the "family" of the gentleman who was "borne in allen Street," to whom we did not "see our way" to "give the charnce" of appearing in the programme of Saturday, Sept. 29 1877, when Tom Taylor's comedy, "An Unequal Match," was first acted by us.

The Croydon Repertory Theatre will revive during their season, which ends on May 24, Miss Elizabeth Baker's play, "Chains," at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, for the week commencing April 14, followed by "The Tyranny of Tears"; and, on the 28th, Mr. Charles McEvoy's new three-act comedy, "The Situation at Newbury." Afterwards will come "The New Sin," by Mr. B. Macdonald Hastings; "Dropping the Pilot," a new four-act comedy, by Mr. Keble Howard; a revival of "Candida," and a one-act play, by Joan and Richard Eldridge, entitled "First Aid." Mr. Ellice Norwood and Miss Madge McIntosh are the principals of the company.

The tour of A. G. Spry and Marie Ogilvie through South Africa is proving most successful. At Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Rodepoort, and Johannesburg both Press and public have been most kind. Mr. A. G. Spry writes:—"This is a most interesting country, and the sights are unique. A Kaffir war dance, for instance, is a thing once seen never forgotten. From here we go to Pretoria, Germiston, Kimberley, and Durban. We sail from Cape Town on May 3 for a long season in Australia on the Rickards Circuit. We have received a tempting offer for a season in India. Probably we may arrange for it to follow Australia. If we do, by the time we get back home we shall certainly have had a most interesting world's tour."

At one time of the career of Foote, the actor, there was a law suit between him and Mr. Ross respecting the Edinburgh Theatre, which came by appeal before the House of Lords. Here the matter was terminated in favour of Ross against the actor, the latter being saddled with the costs. When he paid the bill to Mr. Walter Ross, Mr. Ross's Scotch solicitor, he said, "Well, Walter, when do you go to Scotland?" "To-morrow," was the reply. "And how do you travel?" continued Foote; "I suppose, like the rest of your countrymen, you will do it in the most economical manner?" "Yes," replied the solicitor, "I shall travel on Foot!"

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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Communications.
Business Communications should be addressed to THE MANAGER, "THE ERA" BUILDINGS, 5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433 Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

A. W. HANWELL.—Eduwin Boyde, son of J. W. Rowley, died on Oct. 30, 1909, aged 39 years. We do not answer correspondents by post.

BAD MEMORY.—Mr. Hayden Coffin made his professional debut in London at the Empire on March 11, 1885, as Cosmo in "The Lady of the Locket," a three-act comic opera, book by Henry Hamilton, music by Wm. Fullerton. He had previously appeared with amateurs at the old St. George's Hall. We could not tell you the exact length of the run.

REX.—Send your play to the actor-manager or the theatre you think it may suit. There are theatrical agents who produce plays, and also societies who consider and judge of the value of the work of new authors. The Incorporated Stage Society, offices, 36, Southampton-street, Strand, W.C.; the Oncomers' Society, 32, Regent-street, W.; the Drama Society (secretary, 5, Summerlands Mansions, Muswell Hill, N.); the English Play Society, 19, Sloane-street, S.W., and others produce new plays. Your play would have to be licensed before its production by the Lord Chamberlain.

THESIS.—There is no particular method of becoming a dramatic critic. Three gentlemen who are fulfilling that position on two important dailies and on one weekly are dramatists themselves. Another was the son of a dramatic critic; two or three have come straight from the University. Mr. A. B. Walkley (now of the "Times") wrote dramatic notices for this paper before becoming the critic of the "Star." William Archer went in for general journalism after being called to the Bar, and his example has been followed by others. These facts are merely given to prove to you that there is no royal road. If you have ability, make the drama your hobby, study it in every phase, write about it, and send your articles in to the papers. They will probably be refused, but keep on sending.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.
As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

DEATHS.
BINGHAM.—March 26, at Bristol, Clifton Bingham, song writer.
HEIGHT.—March 21, at Champion Hill Infirmary, Amy Height, comedienne.
HERIOT.—March 18, at 6, Osborne House, St. Mary's-terrace, Maida Hill, W., following an attack for appendicitis, Wilton Heriot, actor.
KEMBLE-BARNETT.—On March 28, at Barnley, Harry Kemble-Barnett, born April 3, 1863.
LAW.—On April 2, at the Homestead, Parkstone, Dorset, William Arthur Law (Arthur Law), late Royal Scots Fusiliers, the beloved husband of Fanny Law, aged 69 years.

IN MEMORIAM.
BELL.—In loving remembrance of our darling sister, Eva Bell, who fell asleep April 4, 1901. Never forgotten by her loving sisters, Minnie and Bella Terry.
How hard it is to part with those
We held on earth so dear.
The heart no greater trial knows.
No sorrow more severe.

COYLE.—In sweet memory of John E. Coyle, who died at Ventnor, April 6, 1909.

GRISHAM.—In loving memory of Alfred Gresham (lecturer), who passed away Easter Sunday, 1912 R.I.P.

TERRY.—In affectionate remembrance of my father-in-law, Edward Terry, who died April 2, 1912. Margaret (Mrs. Herbert E. Terry).

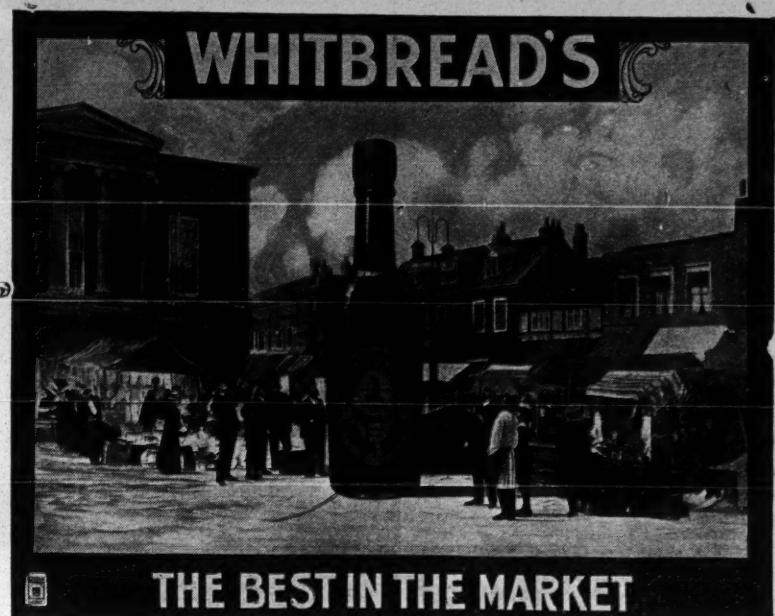
WRIGHT.—In ever loving memory of my dear husband, Henry Wright, who passed away April 9, 1905. Never forgotten by his sorrowing wife, son, and daughter.

DEATHS OF THE MONTH.
Mar. 4.—Melville G. T. Bickford.
" 6.—Alderman Arthur Stebbings, J.P., aged 78.
" 7.—Mrs. Norman Partridge (Miss Betty Mannors).
" 8.—George A. Delacher, aged 83.
" 9.—Ferencz Korbay, aged 66.
" 10.—Mrs. Bolton.
" 10.—Edith, Chalmers-Colona, aged 54.
" 11.—Frank Seeley.
" 11.—Vernon J. Sansbury.
" 12.—Fanny Puzzi.
" 15.—James Doughty, aged 90.
" 16.—Frank Sutton-Vane.
" 17.—Adrienne Augarde.
" 18.—Wilton Heriot.
" 19.—John Thomas.
" 21.—Amy Height.
" 26.—Mary Louisa Cooke, aged 58.
" 26.—Jane Courtneidge, aged 84.
" 28.—Harry Kemble-Barnett.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK
We wish the following ladies and gentlemen many happy returns of the day:—
Edmund Waller—Saturday, April 5.
A. C. Hardie—Sunday, April 6.
Will White—Monday, April 7.
Charles Gulliver—Monday, April 7.
Madge McIntosh—Tuesday, April 8.
Chas. Hazeltine—Tuesday, April 8.
Lily Elsie—Tuesday, April 8.
Captain Slingsby—Tuesday, April 8.
Frank Wheeler—Wednesday, April 9.
W. F. Frame—Thursday, April 10.
Leonard Boyne—Friday, April 11.
(Miss) M. Lowe-Dare—Friday, April 11.

"I'll swear upon that bottle."

—Tempest, Act ii., Scene ii.



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—Henry VI., Act ii., Scene iii.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1913.

CAN SALARIES BE RAISED?

"An ex-actress," writing to the "Daily Express," endorses certain assertions which have been made in that paper respecting the alleged over-payment of actors, and says that the high salaries given to certain artists prejudice those who take smaller parts. "Granted," she says, "that in the great majority of cases they draw a living wage, but something over and above is needed in a profession so beset with uncertainty as the stage. For the minor members of the cast every London production is a plunge into the unknown; the play may run a year, or for only half the number of weeks devoted to its rehearsal. This has recently been the case at two of the leading theatres. The abrupt withdrawal of a play is, of course, a misfortune for all concerned, but the blow falls with very unequal weight. The well-known, amply salaried actor or actress is probably under contract to the management, and remains for the next production, and at the worst has resources at command until a fresh engagement is found. But the less important members of the company, who must, at all costs, keep up a prosperous appearance, are faced by a time of racking anxiety, and often actual privation, against which it has been quite impossible to make provision. . . . There is crying need for the levelling up of the salaries given to the rank and file of the profession."

The question of wages (or salaries) has been complicated by a vast amount of verbiage, but it is at bottom a very simple one. It is a matter of supply and demand, of the willingness of some to sell their services, and of others to buy them. An actor's salary is settled by what the managers, as a body, consider that he is worth. If two actors of equal efficiency offer their services to a manager, one asking £3 a week and the other £4, obviously he will engage the cheaper of the two. The amount arrived at is reached by what is technically known as "the higgling of the market"; otherwise bargaining.

This is the view of the subject that presents itself at first sight; but there is another side of the question. There is a large number of workers who are never subjected to the bargaining system, not being of sufficient importance to be able to "do a deal." Of such are choristers, supers and small part players. It is in the interests of these that a Union has been proposed.

Salaries (wages) have a natural tendency to fall to the lowest figure at which the workers will consent to increase their numbers. If a trade or calling is "brought down" by circumstances, young people shrink from adopting it; it is generally known as being a "poor" trade, and it finally ceases to attract. (Something of this kind is taking place with regard to the profession of architect.)

The theory of a "Wages Fund" is slightly misleading. Within reasonable limits, the rate of wages can be raised by the employers of labour consenting to relinquish part of their profits. When a railway company raises the wages of the men, the railway does not cease running; but the fact is often mentioned at board meetings as an explanation of a lessened dividend.

There is also a certain amount of sentiment in the matter. All employers are not heartless ogres. They have a sense of right and wrong, and the idea of a "fair wage," i.e., a salary on which it is possible for the worker to live in happiness, is recognised by all but the most unscrupulous. Hence the notion of the Minimum Wage, which has been secured by certain classes of labourers.

What is the position of the rank and file of actors as regards the establishment of a minimum wage by force? Obviously a very weak one. In the first place, a number of them only look upon their present positions as temporary, ex-

pecting to rise to better ones. Then there is the actor who has taken up acting partly as an amusement, who has private means, and does not live on his salary. These two elements—and they are important sections of the supers and small-part people—weakens the power of the others by acting as an army of "blacklegs," from which make-shifts could be obtained to replace actors on strike, or refusing to accept low salaries. Their existence makes an Actors' Union, in the proper sense of the word, impossible.

We are not, however, giving a counsel of despair. Any idea of "fighting the managers," as in certain trades the men have fought the masters, is out of the question in connection with an art like that of acting. But what we think might be done on a large scale is what is being done on a small scale by Mr. DUNCAN YOUNG, of the Actors' Association. In making engagements for any member of the Association, he takes his stand on the broad principle of a minimum wage, as a matter of right and fairness. Much may be done by pressure and persuasion, and the influence of public opinion. They are the only weapons when coercion is out of the question. Something of this sort is being tried in America by the newly-formed Actors' Equity Association, which is not a Union. A conference has been held between a committee of representatives of American actors as a body and three men who were selected as representing the theatrical managers as a class, and with them the ideal theatrical contract, which would aim to be impartial between actors and managers, has been discussed, and several lawyers have been asked to embody its features in legal form. Among the actors who are most active in the new organisation are men like Messrs. WILTON LACKAYE, FRANCIS WILSON, ROBERT EDESON, GRANT STEWART, BRUCE McRAE, FRANK GILMORE, HOWARD KYLE, FRITZ WILLIAMS, GEORGE FAWCETT, RICHARD BENNETT, and BRANDON TYNAN—actors well known in America, though less famous in London. The actors promoting the Association are successful and prominent men, and their Association is formed absolutely to protect their less fortunate fellow-players. There has recently been a great deal of feeling in America against certain managers—prosperous managers—who have engaged artists for a new production, and after four, five, six, or even seven weeks' rehearsal, have dismissed the companies without any compensation; and the rehearsal question is one of the matters the Association is dealing with. The salaries of the rank and file of the small-part people and supers can never be raised in England unless the cause of the poorer actors be taken up by people equal in status and importance to the American actors whose names we have given; and unless the movement is directed calmly and judiciously. The great obstacles to the raising of salaries are the fiery foolishness of fanatics and the apathy and hopelessness of the poorly-paid actor himself.

THE PEDGRIFT TESTIMONIAL.

A testimonial is being prepared for Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, who joined the staff of this paper in 1875, and retired recently from the position of its business manager. As publisher of the paper, acting under the directions of the late Editor, Mr. Edward Ledger, Mr. Pedgrift did good service in connection with the various charities and subscriptions promoted and assisted by "The Era"; and on Mr. Ledger's retirement in 1904 Mr. Pedgrift became honorary treasurer of several of the funds which had been started by this paper. He was especially interested in the Music Hall Home, after it was founded by Mr. Dan Leno and Mr. Cecil Merrie in 1897, and devoted much attention to the "Shilling Fund," which was of so much assistance in supplying funds for the institution. He also gave cordial co-operation to the passing of the Musical Piracy Act by the exertions of Mr. T. P. O'Connor. When the Showmen's Guild was founded by some leading showmen in 1888, Mr. Pedgrift connected himself prominently with the movement. He was also much interested in the annual Theatrical Sports. We have received, up to the present, the following subscriptions to the testimonial:

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Harry Nicholls, Esq.	10	6	
W. W. Boughton, Esq.	10	6	
Fisher White, Esq.	10	6	
Charles Harrington, Esq.	10	6	
Robert Grey, Esq.	5	0	

Mr. Alfred Barnard is the hon. treasurer of the Fund, which is being organised by Mr. Duncan Young, the secretary of the Actors' Association, to whom subscriptions may also be sent.

Mr. Charles Hawtrey's delightful Irish production, "General John Regan," registers its 100th performance at the Apollo Theatre on Monday.

The revival at the Imperial Institute to-day of Professor Geddes' "Masque of Learning" will be signalled by a remarkable piece of make-up of Shakespeare by Clarkson; and a reincarnation of Bobbie Burns by Mr. W. F. Beattie, a young Scottish sculptor, who not only reproduces the features of the great poet, but also that mixture of rusticity and genius, shyness and self-confidence which distinguished "Robbie." It is proposed to take the whole performance to the Ghent Exhibition.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Some time ago there was a paragraph in your paper to the effect that a manager had asked his patrons to vote for what they considered the best acted part in the play then being represented. Now, I am neither actor nor manager, but I think that statement must have given food for reflection in both theatrical and playgoing circles. Let us think for a moment what it means. If all plays were adequately cast—to the satisfaction of the public, which, after all, "pay the piper"—what a tremendous revolution would take place in the theatrical world! We all know the "rotteness," if I may be permitted the term, of the present system. Quite irrespective of the ability of the artists, favouritism, influence and cheapness seem to play the greatest part in the casting of pieces—and the public suffers.

The London and provincial boards are being flooded with crowds of incompetent amateurs, who give their services for nothing, undersell the market, and who generally have not the faintest notion of the real seriousness or difficulty of the art they have adopted as an outlet for their vanity and a cure for their ennui.

We hear on all sides of the decline of the theatre patrons and the growth of those of the music halls. Why? Because in the halls you are given performances by artists, the majority of whom have made their art their lifelong study, and who hold their positions through ability, and ability alone; in other words, they "have the goods." In the theatre, what do we see? Drama, as yet, seems to hold little attraction for the amateur, so it has become the lot of actor and actress, the disappointed or incompetent actor and actress, to whom other doors are closed by that game amateur. They acquire a style at once ridiculous and unnatural, which unfits them for all else, and effectually ruins any piece they happen to play. It is "bastard" acting, easy to acquire and bad in its origin.

On the other hand, the feeble modern cut make a merit of their incompetence and play everything in a maiming monotone, very little of which carries across the footlights, while the awkwardness of the novice mars their movements. In no other profession would raw beginners be allowed to foist their wares on the public. In these two pictures, what inducement is there for the average intelligent playgoer to visit the theatres? For myself, if I want amusement, I go to the music halls, and believe me, the music halls claim thousands of neophytes yearly.

I write this as a theatre lover and one sad at heart to see an art so misdirected. I believe I voice the opinion of thousands of my fellow-playgoers, and I hope you will publish this letter as showing some of the playgoers' views. As far as we can see, it is the theatrical manager who is to blame. We want to see the characters of a play interpreted in the way the author conceived them. We want clear diction. We want to see people who understand their profession in the responsible parts. Acting should be made a competitive art—irrespective of managers' whims, favourites, and tyranny.

Newspaper criticisms are, in nine cases out of ten, biased or indiscriminating. That manager who, according to your paper, fearlessly put his company before the public and asked their opinion upon the artistes he had chosen, is, in my opinion, to be congratulated, as he is taking a step in the direction of progress.

Apologising for this lengthy epistle.

Yours faithfully,

EVAN PENNY.

24, Lewisham-hill, London, S.E., April 2, 1913.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

At the conclusion of the Easter term of this College on Wednesday the following awards were made by the director and board of professors:

1. Council Exhibitions (£50).—Ralph W. Parker, piano, £9; Marie Archer, singing, £7; Charlotte Cunningham, singing, £9; Dorothy M. Basano, violin, £9; Alice K. E. Pattenden, violin £9; Marie H. Gossens, harp, £7.
2. Charlotte Holmes Exhibition (£15).—Divided between Gladys Blume and Lillie D. Chipp, A.R.C.M., singing.
3. Clementi Exhibition (value about £28) for Pianoforte Playing.—Nora Delany.
4. Organ Extemporising Prize (value £3 3s.).—Douglas A. A. Fox.
5. Henry Leslie (Herefordshire Philharmonic Prize (£10) for Singers.—Clara S. H. Klein-schmidt.
6. Arthur Sullivan Prize (£5) for Composition.—Percival R. Kirby.
7. Scholefield Prize (£3) for String Players.—Elsie M. Dudding, A.R.C.M., violin.
8. Dannreuther Prize (£9 9s.) for the best performance of a Pianoforte Concerto with Orchestra.—Rosalee M. Stokes.
9. Challen and Son Gold Medal for Pianoforte Playing.—Nora M. Cordwell.
10. John Hopkinson Medals for Pianoforte Playing.—Gold Medal, Rosalee M. Stokes; Silver Medal, Nora M. Cordwell.
11. Gold Medal presented by the late Raja Sir S. M. Tagore of Calcutta for the most generally deserving pupil.—Joseph A. Taffs.
12. History Examination Prize.—Edith M. Colam.
13. The George Carter Scholarship for Students who combine Organ and Composition as studies.—Craig S. Lang (for one year).

GERMAN PLAY AT THE QUEEN'S THEATRE.

The members of the Deutscher Bühnen Verein, London, met at the Queen's Theatre, on Sunday evening last, both to enjoy Bissan's amusing farce, "Der Schlafwagen-Kontrollleur," and to do honour to the popular director, Herr Max Sylge, and his wife, who have rendered such continuous and much appreciated services to the society. Herr Sylge as the amorous Georges Godefroid, whose adoption of the alias of the sleeping-car conductor, Alfred Godefroid, to cover his double life, leads to so many amusing complications, was well suited with a part, and with Frau Olga Sylge, who gave one of her clever character studies of the mother-in-law, Aurora, was the recipient of some beautiful flowers. Frau Alix Grein was neat and effective as the deceived wife, Lucienne, quite equal to holding her own at the same game; and Fräulein Hedda Kötner was charming as the youthful Rosine Charbonneau. Herr Leopold Müller played amusingly as the conductor, Alfred Godefroid, and good work was also put in by Herren Alfred Goltmann, H. V. Langendorf, Erich Moris, and Ernst Naefer. Fräulein Marie Rhone and Hedwig Rohmann cleverly differentiated the two servants, Julie and Françoise, and Fräulein Olga Romberg did all that was required as Mme. Charbonneau. The voice of the souffleur was more in evidence than we have been accustomed to expect at the performances of this society, and the absence of music between the acts was no doubt a contributory cause of the short length of an otherwise most enjoyable evening.

The part of Paris was undertaken, two days before production of "Romeo and Juliet" at the New Princess Theatre, by Mr. A. D. Layland. The part, however, was not new to him, he having at different times played most of the male parts in the play, including Romeo and Friar Lawrence.

NEW THEATRE IN PARIS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Considerable curiosity has been excited in Paris, not only in theatrical circles, concerning the wonderful building which has been built in the Avenue Montaigne by M. Gabriel Astruc, and which is called the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, as a combination of Anglo-Saxon comfort and technique, together with the harmony of French taste.

In reality there are two theatres, the minor one being known as the Comédie des Champs-Élysées, under the management of M. Léon Poirier. The other house, which will be devoted chiefly to opera, is very vast in its proportions, and yet homely, thanks to the contour of the balconies.

There are no stage boxes, and a much-needed improvement on many existing Parisian theatres is that not a single seat exists from which the spectator has not a full view of the stage. The stalls, the most spacious and the most comfortable ever designed for a theatre, have two arms each. Each row is properly separated from its neighbour in such a way that it will not be necessary for twenty or thirty persons to rise in order that a late-comer may reach his seat. The seats are well raked.

The largest boxes have spacious ante-rooms behind them. The balcony and gallery seats are as comfortable as those on the floor of the house. The heating apparatus allows of the temperature being regulated according to the season. A ventilating system withdraws the vitiated air and brings in a constant supply of pure, fresh air. The corridors are as large as foyers. The illumination is gently suffused and obtained by reflection, no lamps being visible. Lifts convey both public and artistes from floor to floor. The bar, the ladies' room and cloak-rooms are all luxuriously appointed, and on the roof is a large terrace, a delightful resort in the intervals on spring and summer nights.

The principles of Bayreuth, Munich, Moscow, and Stuttgart are applied to the stage, where everywhere steel replaces wood. It is 138ft. high, 82ft. wide, and 98ft. deep. There are three separate movable floors worked by lifts; they will all disappear if necessary below the stage level. Two motors of 150 h.p. supply the energy and the illumination. The orchestra, which are visible or invisible according to the occasion, accommodates as many as 120 instrumentalists. The organ has its keyboard situated in the centre of the orchestra, while its pipes form the framework of the proscenium.

The architectural and decorative ornamentation has been entrusted to artists of considerable talent. M. Maurice Denis has composed for the dome of the house a series of symbolical panels. These panels, consecrated to the glory of music, deal with its chief phases, from the myths of Orpheus and Bacchus creating song and gesture under theegis of Apollo to its most modern manifestations. M. E. A. Bourdelle, acting both as statuary and painter, has sculptured the groups and decorations of the facade and painted the frescoes ornamenting the chief foyer. The latter, by the way, will be used as a gallery for exhibitions of painting.

The Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, which was opened on Monday, was erected in two years at a cost of £140,000. The capital behind it is chiefly American, but M. Gabriel Astruc, and his assistant, M. Gabriel Thomas, are to be praised for an enterprise which deserves success.

READING OF "CHATELARD."

A notable success was achieved on Sunday last by Miss Ella Erskine, when, under her direction and the patronage of Sir Herbert Tree and Mr. Theodore Watts-Dunton, a dramatic reading of Swinburne's fascinating poem-tragedy, "Chastelard," was given at the Passmore Edwards Settlement, Tavistock-place. The audience was large and representative, and testified its appreciation by repeated calls at the fall of the curtain. The principal honours of the evening fell to Miss Ella Erskine, whose portrayal of the character of the capricious Queen of Scots stamped her as an emotional actress of exceptional ability. To have interpreted so complex a character, full of subtleties and flashes of tenderness and unruly passion, in so attractive a manner, is an achievement of no mean distinction. The Chastelard was Mr. Clarence Derwent, who was quiet, manly, and easy, and the Darnley Mr. Noel Phelps, who read very attractively, giving a very cleverly conceived interpretation. Others in the cast were Miss Phyllis Birkett, a gentle and winsome Mary Beaton, Mr. Frederick Moyes, and Mr. Benedict Butler.

Having regard to the noteworthy exhibition of Miss Erskine's versatile talents in recent plays, wherein temperamental subtleties wedded to virile powers of portrayal were essentials, the opinion is not lightly expressed that this talented actress should not for long lack the opportunity of having herself regarded as fitting to rank as the Bernhardt of the English stage.

"ECONOMISING."

A Comedy, in One Act, by John F. Haylock, Produced for the First Time in London at Kennington on Monday, March 31.

Mrs. Albert Ogston . . . Miss Madge Trenchard
Mr. Albert Ogston . . . Mr. John Cecil
Mrs. Ogston . . . Miss Margaret Beck
Mr. Haylock has written a bright and lively little curtain-raiser in "Economising," which had its London introduction at Kennington Theatre on Monday evening. The story centres round the desire of Mr. Albert Ogston to effect economies in his household management, and the efforts of Mrs. Albert Ogston to ensure that in carrying out his wishes to their full extent Mr. Ogston shall experience some of the inconveniences involved. Mr. Ogston complains to his wife that a friend of theirs, Mr. Jones, is able to run a house much cheaper than his establishment is conducted. The wife resents this implied reflection on her domestic methods, and immediately inaugurates an era of rigid economy. In the development of this Mr. Ogston discovers that meals provided on economical lines are not nearly so appetising as those he had been accustomed to. When he complains, he is reminded by his wife that it is the result of his desire for retrenchment. She rightly makes clear that saving money cannot be effected without domestic sacrifice, but she is willing to endure it if he does not complain. The inevitable result, of course, is that the husband collapses, the era of economy is banished, and he agrees to make his wife a much larger allowance to enable her to conduct her household on lines which are more consonant with their mutual tastes.

The dialogue is crisp and clever, the humour is constant, and as a curtain-raiser "Economising" has come to stay. The part of Mrs. Albert Ogston was capably sustained by Miss Madge Trenchard, who sketched the high-spirited wife with much fidelity. Mr. Ogston was admirably interpreted by Mr. John Cecil, who was an ideal grumbling and selfish husband, thinking only of his own comfort until induced by force of circumstances to take a more reasonable view of things. Miss Margaret Beck was very good as Mrs. Ogston, the mother-in-law.

Mr. Compton Mackenzie, the son of Mr. Edward Compton, is the author of a story in a recent number of the "Maggie." It is admirably written, and shows a real gift for fiction.

OLD SHOWS IN CANADA.

By PEGGY WEBLING.

There is no need, when we recall old show days in Canada, to dip into the hoary past. The records of the Great Dominion are still fresh and green.

My own experiences date from the end of the last century. I toured from end to end of the country, from Atlantic to Pacific, from bleak Nova Scotia to humid British Columbia.

That was a golden age for small show people. Engagements could be booked by correspondence. Entertainments were given under the auspices of Freemasons, Oddfellows, Knights of Pythias, fire brigades, churches—every description of society and institution—the show people usually taking a small guarantee with a percentage on the gross receipts.

Every class of performance was called a concert, whether it was musical or not. Recitations were still popular, although there were signs even then, that the long-winded reciter would gradually pass away, even as the wild buffalo and the ox team. "The Chariot Race," from "Ben-Hur," was the most hackneyed of all Canadian recitations, being a respiratory effort regarded, by long-suffering audiences, as "somethin' grand and tolerable!"

Nearly every town, however small, possessed its opera house. The opera house was used for every purpose—dances, concerts, political meetings—and it was generally a small, square, wooden building, with a seating capacity of two or three hundred, lighted by oil lamps and heated by one big stove.

If any inexperienced show people expected an opera house to have dressing-rooms they were sadly disappointed. We dressed behind a curtain at the side of the platform. Footlights were generally unknown; at the best, they were smoky oil lamps, with bits of tin for reflectors. At one town we were told by our committee that there were "real elegant footlights," and we found them—three—arranged in a row at the back of the stage.

It was a very rare occurrence to find an opera house possessed of any scenery. At one little town a local artist had painted, on the drop curtain, a picture of a soap factory, and this triumph of scenic art never failed to receive the loudest applause of the evening. Another opera house was famous among show people for its one piece of scenery, being a representation of water-lilies, as big as dinner plates, neatly painted in rows from the floor to the ceiling.

Furniture for the stage had to be borrowed privately. We have played acts from Shakespeare before now in a kitchen set, with a couple of "rockers," a buffalo robe for a carpet, and portraits of Queen Victoria and Abraham Lincoln hanging on the wall.

There appeared to be a fixed rule—the smaller the opera house the bigger the piano. Such pianos are never seen in this old country. They belonged to the age of the pioneers—great, square, tinkling, rasping, wheezing pianos, with yellow keys and worn-out pedals. Occasionally, by way of a change, our pianiste would have to perform on a small harmonium—hardly a suitable accompaniment for the Scotch sword dance and Irish jig that were included in our programme.

The rowdy boys, never absent from any kind of show, amused themselves by whistling all through the intervals, and never failed to greet the appearance of the artistes with cries of "Sweet! Sweet!" and an imitation of kissing. Another playful habit of the Ontario boys was to subject the performers to a light fusillade of small peppermint sweets, known as "conversation lozenges," on which complimentary sentences were printed. It greatly added to their enjoyment of a piano solo to aim "conversation lozenges" at the fingers of the player. It must be said, however, in justice to the boys, that their applause was tremendous.

We usually played in five different towns a week, resting on Saturdays and Sundays. One night stands, in those days, all through a Canadian winter meant that one had to possess—in the words of a popular Canadian entertainer—"the strength of a horse, the temper of an angel, and the digestion of an ostrich."

Dazzlingly frosty days, bitterly cold nights, long sleigh drives in a temperature considerably below zero, a diet of bacon and pie, the misery of dressing for the show in a slip of space, with the snow not infrequently drifting under the door, the necessity of "picking up" one's train at any hour of the day or night it came along, for fear of being imprisoned in a town by snowstorms—these were a few of the principal difficulties to be encountered. One grew quite indifferent to such minor troubles as an occasional spill from a sleigh in deep snow, or the necessity of giving the entertainment in an hotel dining-room or a barn, or spending a night in a railway station waiting for a snow-bound train, or struggling up to the knees through feathery drifts from the hotel to the opera house.

On one occasion the ladies of our little company were obliged, owing to the attack of mosquitoes, to appear on the stage heavily veiled!

Playing in gold-mining camps is an experience worth remembering. When we went through the famous Kootenay district of British Columbia it was still booming. Our audiences were all of men—"tough" crowds, straight from the pages of Bret Harte's stories. The hotel rates were exorbitant; the walls between the rooms were of match-board; the "chuck-out" was a conspicuous figure in every dining-room. Our appearance in the big sleigh belonging to the hotel, when we jingled along the unpaved streets, was something in the nature of a royal progress, for very few show people had ventured so far. At night, after the entertainment, we were given a supper by some of the boys, at which, I recollect, every guest was invited by the waiters to "name his liquor." The waiters, by the way, freely joined in the conversation when it happened to interest them. One August night, in Manitoba, we were entertained in a very different manner by a party of cowboys—cowpunchers as they were called in the still "wild and woolly West." Mounted on their long-tailed, wiry little bronchos, they drew up in a line in front of the hotel in the bright light—as bright as day—of the great yellow harvest moon, and sang to us most sweetly before they galloped away, yelling, into the night.

I wonder whether Canadian committees are more lenient to show people in these days than they were in the nineties. It was no use expecting compliments, however heartily the audience applauded, while the entertainment was going on.

"Wal, we was verry well satisfied on the whole!" was the usual form of congratulation.

"We ain't heard no complaints—as yet!" is a cautious, but not very encouraging, remark.

If a party of show people had the misfortune to make a failure the peculiar expression was used, "Their concert kind of got a black eye!"

The manager of one little company told a capital story of a particularly critical committee. The show did not please the patrons of a certain little opera house. The committee refused to pay the promised fee. The manager threatened and implored in vain.

"If you disliked us so intensely," he said at last, in desperation, "why didn't you stop us in the middle of the programme? Why did all your people sit through the whole show?"

"Guess I can answer that all right," retorted the head of the committee, "we ent it out because we hoped yer'd get better—but yer got worse!"

To end on a more complimentary note—we were told, in all seriousness, by a kinder committee that a gentleman in the town had seen "Irving's troupe and Bernhardt's troupe, but he preferred ours!"

VARIETY GOSSIP

In another column on this page we print the terms of a resolution to be proposed on April 25 which foreshadows the amalgamation of the two music-hall homes—that at Gipsy Hill, known as Colyer House, and that at Twickenham, known as Brinsworth. The first effort at establishing a house of refuge for the aged and destitute of the music-hall profession, was due in a large measure to that great comedian and prince of good fellows, Dan Leno, and Mr. John Brill, formerly proprietor of the Royal, took the chair at a dinner in 1896 at which over £300 was subscribed. This formed the nucleus of a fund for starting a little later a home in Lambeth. Afterwards the home was removed to Camberwell, and two years ago the present home was purchased.

With the acquisition of Brinsworth, the variety profession felt very naturally that at last the artists owned a home worthy of the importance and prestige of their side of the entertainment world; but the spade work done by the older and smaller institution in the establishment of a refuge for the aged and indigent has always been heartily recognised. By none more so than Mr. Joe Elvin, to whose charitable persistency and splendid advocacy the profession owes Brinsworth.

But it was quite apparent from the time that Brinsworth was established that the policy of amalgamation was the one that most commended itself to the practical common-sense and business instincts of the profession. The obstacles in the way of such a proceeding were never serious, and will no doubt be easily overcome when the resolution to which we have referred comes up for consideration on the 25th. Amalgamation certainly means strength.

The relatives of Miss Cecilia Loftus have been experiencing a very anxious time, which was much relieved by a cable on Sunday last, saying that the popular actress had reached Omaha, Nebraska, and was quite safe.

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining a certain gentleman for the cast of "Disraeli," Mr. John Lawson will not produce that play until May 5, at the Hippodrome, Margate. A special train, on which tea will be served, will be run from Victoria at five o'clock to enable the production to be seen by the press, managers, and friends. For their convenience coupons will be issued, enabling them to spend the night at the principal hotel, and for those whose business calls them to town the next day breakfast will be provided on the early morning train.

Miss Florence Smithson, who has entirely recovered from her recent illness, has provided herself with a charming vehicle for her delightful talent when she reappears at the Coliseum on Monday next. The operetta is entitled "A Jungle Romance," and has been written by herself, in conjunction with Mr. Wilfrid Doughty, who will, moreover, support her in the piece. Mr. Bruce Smith has painted a pretty scene. Although the songs will be the primary consideration, Miss Smithson will be seen in a part somewhat similar to that of O'Hana San in "The Mousmé," and will therefore have the opportunity of revealing her histrionic gifts.

Miss Louie Pounds sails for South Africa to-day by the Walmer Castle to fulfil an eight weeks' engagement at the Palladium, Johannesburg. Miss Pounds is taking with her several new numbers, which should prove a strong attraction. Her business arrangements during her absence are in the hands of Louis Casson, Ltd.

Mr. Wilkie Bard, who has recently been enjoying a health trip to the Canary Islands, which are rapidly becoming popular as an early spring resort for pantomime stars, will join the Tivoli programme on Monday next, and will sing some of his latest successes. He has in study several new numbers, one or two of which will be catching on with the flowers in May. Wilkie has not concluded any arrangements for going to America.

The great Parisian success, the "Revue de la Ba-Ta-Clan," which has run for 260 days at the theatre of that name, will be transferred *en bloc* to the New Middlesex Theatre, Drury-lane, on May 5. It was Mr. Stoll's original intention to give Londoners, and particularly Frenchmen in London, the opportunity of witnessing this revue at the Coliseum, which is typical of the most artistic Parisian productions, but the important prior engagements at that house precluded the idea. The revue, of course, will be played in French, a fact that has created much satisfaction in the French quarter.

A special engagement for the Empire revue is that of Miss Vera Maxwell, a charming American girl, who for several years has been a particularly popular star in the successful revues staged in New York by Zeigfeld's Follies, and has appeared in many different plays from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and the Gulf of Mexico to Canada. This is the first time she has been to England. She has brought over some capital rag-time numbers, which she will sing in the new production with Mr. Seymour Hicks, who secured her services for the Empire.

Most of the action of "Come Over Here," the London Opera House revue, takes place in Paris. There will be no political skits or any travesties of current successes. There are five scenes, one of the most striking being of an Eastern description, in which Mr. Theodore Kosloff, the eminent Russian dancer, is to play the principal rôle. Mr. Max Pemberton has provided a story sufficient, at any rate, to serve as a connecting link between the various numbers, while in the composition of the music Mr. Louis Hirsch is associated with Mr. R. Johnson. A bevy of New York beauties has been brought over, and the sensation caused by the chorus in "The Belle of New York" at the Shaftesbury is likely to be repeated. The specially chosen fair include Miss Grace Washburn, Miss Bessie Clifford, and Miss Pearl Barti, the last reputed to be a very fine singer. Mr. Gus Sohke, a New York expert producer. Everything points to a production on original lines.

Mr. George Graves, who will appear at the Coliseum next week, tells an amusing story against himself of the force of habit. Drury Lane pantomime finished the other Wednesday evening mid the usual handshakings and best wishes until the next meeting in December for rehearsal. On the following Thursday morning Drury-lane was drear and desolate, but promptly the stage door was scurried from a taxi cab through the stage door to the dressing rooms. It was George Graves, and not until he had finished his "make-up" did it dawn on him that "the other fellows were very late." Chuckling to himself on his punctuality, he wended his way to the stage, where he found the scenery being packed up with all alacrity. "Hello! What's up," he exclaimed, and the same instant remembered his farewell speeches on the previous evening. "Force of habit, you know, old man," he said, relating the story.

The Theatrical Garden Party in aid of the Actors' Orphanage will be held this year in the gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Tuesday, June 3. The variety profession will, as usual, take a share in the provision of attractions, and no one appreciates this kindly co-operation in a good cause more than the leaders of the legitimate stage.

Mr. Horace Cole, recently manager of Finsbury Park Empire, has reverted to his former employer's service, having been appointed manager of Mr. Oswald Stoll's Manchester Hippodrome. Before coming to Finsbury Park Mr. Cole was manager of the Liverpool Olympia, and held similar positions at New Cross and Edinburgh. He started his career on the business side of the footlights at the Trafalgar-square Theatre, now the Duke of York's.

One of the latest additions to the ranks of lady owners on the turf is Miss Evelyn Taylor, the well-known comedienne, who recently won three races with her horse Closewood Beck. With Coteheifer at Maitton, Miss Taylor has at present six horses in training, a number that will be greatly increased during the next few weeks; for now that her colours have been carried to victory, she intends to race on a large scale, and promises to be as popular on the turf as on the stage. Mrs. Langtry is another owner on the vaudeville stage; and Mr. George Barclay owns some goers.

Professor Buer desires us to let all his old friends know that the Two Dominos—he and his muck—have another birthday. The Professor on April 2nd, and the other fellow on the 22nd. They total between them 113 years. Buer was born in 1840. Both are in excellent health, and have just finished nine weeks in Paris. They open at the Royal Victoria Theatre, Waterloo-road, on Monday next. Buer tells us that the happy pair—he and his four-footed pal—are both proud of the fact that they are the oldest performing "stupid donkeys in England." But the Professor should not imitate the example of Dogberry.

Our Liverpool correspondent writes: It is proposed to erect a variety theatre on the promenade at New Brighton, opposite to Liverpool, near the old "Ham and Egg" parade. The building will cost £2,000, and will seat about 1,700 people. Probably opposition will be forthcoming when the necessary licence is applied for.

In order to facilitate the production of "All the Winners," the Empire Revue, Mr. Walter Dickson made special arrangements with Mr. Eustace Gray for the engagement of the Palladium Minstrels to appear on Thursday, Friday, and to-night. Their success has been conspicuous. "Everybody's Doing It" finished on Wednesday evening.

Mr. Robert Harcourt will move the following resolution in the House of Commons on April 16: "That the attempts to maintain by means of antiquated legislation a legal distinction between a theatre and music hall, and to differentiate between productions called stage plays and other dramatic performances, is unworkable; that the system of licensing such plays before production in Great Britain, though not in Ireland, by means principally of the perusal of the manuscripts, should be abolished, and that as regards such exhibitions, of whatever kind and wherever given, reliance should be placed on subsequent effective control."

Rehearsals are nearing completion for the new revue, "All the Winners," which will be produced at the Empire Theatre on Monday next. The first part will be devoted to a satire on the present-day mania for rag-time. The scene, which is laid at a well-known seaside hotel, is filled with the effete of the social and theatrical world, attracted thither in spite of the indifference of the cuisine and the accommodation, by the fascinations of "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford," the rag-time king. The rôle, played by Mr. Lionel Mackinder, will be a broad caricature of one of the leading exponents of rag-time now before the British public. Wallingford's supremacy, however, is disputed by Truly Peach, the rag-time queen, a part in which Miss Ida Crisp should find full scope for her many talents. Amongst other prominent people of the day found very much in evidence will be Mr. George R. Sims; a famous Suffragette, who has been attracted from her retreat in France by Wallingford; and the inevitable Mr. Lloyd George. In vain do Lord Roberts and Lord Charles Bessford come to urge on the youth of the country the necessity for training under arms for the defence of their native land. Blind to everything but the fascinations of rag-time, they dance on while a hostile fleet drops its shells into their midst.

Scene II, brings us to Mr. Stanley Houghton's Hindle. An election is going on in the Lancashire town, and Mr. Arthur Boucher, as one of the candidates, very unwisely "trusts the people"; while his opponent, Sir George Alexander, has an unfortunate experience, which shows the lengths to which militant Suffragettes will go. Towards the end of the scene a rapid succession of climatic changes, to which England is subjected, drives the company to the more consistent climate of Monte Carlo—the third and last scene. Here everything that makes Monte Carlo so attractive in the way of dress, fashion, and sunshine will be shown, with all the notabilities in holiday mood. The principal part, of course, be sustained by Mr. Seymour Hicks, but Mr. Lionel Mackinder, Mr. Barry Lupino, Mr. Vernon Watson, and Mr. Walter Dowling will have much to do.

As for the ladies, everyone will welcome back Miss Ida Crisp, who contributed so much to the success of "Everybody's Doing It." A newcomer to the Empire, of whom, after her many recent successes in comedy parts, much is expected is Miss Maidie Hope. The dainty Miss Unity More, who has already firmly established herself in the affections of Empire audiences by reason of her charm and vivacity, will also play an important part; Miss Kate Sergeantson, who has such a high reputation as a delineator of grande dames, will appear as the Duchess of Compton, a part which will typify all that is best in our English aristocracy. Miss Vera Maxwell, a newcomer, who will give some of her very successful dances which have attracted all New York, Miss Effie Cook, Miss Maud Jay (the handsome Lady Esmund), and Miss Peggy Ross, &c., will help to swell the cast.

The revue, which has been written by Mr. C. H. Bovill, who collaborated with Mr. George R. Sims in the authorship of the record Drury Lane pantomime success, "Sleeping Beauty" (to be repeated next Christmas), has been produced by Mr. Fred Farren. The music has been composed and arranged by Mr. Cuthbert Clarke. The scenery is by Mr. J. T. Bull and Mr. R. C. McCleery, and the costumes, which will contribute to make the production second to none, have been designed and supervised by Mr. C. Wilhelm, and executed by Lucile, Madame Ross, Firenze, Madame Barolet, Mesdames Rowell and Jessop, and Miss Hastings; and creations by Misson Lewis provide the headgear. The male costumes have been specially made by Messrs. J. P. Allen and Co., Messrs. Johns and Bonham, and Messrs. Morris Angel and Son.

Sandy McNab is drawing record houses with his new mummy sketch—Egyptian, of course, but not sphinx-like. The braw Sandy has sammut to say, and says it very funnily. He goes to America in September.

Ernie Lotings, due to open at the Ardwick Empire on Monday, was announced to be ill in London, under the attendance of a nurse. Crick-shanks came up specially from London to deputise, and did so in highly successful style, in spite of a hurried journey and an obviously bad cold.

Martin Adeson and Clara Bernard will shortly produce in London a new duologue, entitled "A Dear Old Soul." Although it is full of comedy, it has a streak of pathos. Mr. Adeson will play a female rôle. Meanwhile, the happy pair are doing the trick with "A Doubtful Policy" at the Oxford.

Miss Beatrice Willey, having concluded a successful engagement with Geo. Dance's "Autumn Manoeuvres" company, is sailing on the 19th inst. to fulfil a short special engagement at the Palladium, Johannesburg. Miss Willey returns in time for Mr. Dance's autumn production, for which she is re-engaged.

To commemorate the enormous success of "Bungle's Luck," Mr. Fred Kitchen, on the journey from London to Portsmouth, unexpectedly presented Charles Baldwin with a valuable diamond pin. Baldwin received heartiest congratulations from the entire members of the company (sixty-three), who wished him long life to wear it. The whole thing was done in the informal manner so characteristic of the thorough good-heartedness of Fred.

Tom Morton and Maggie Bowman are having quite a busy time in town. Last week, in addition to working the Pavilion and the Metropolitan, they were called upon to deputise for the Three Rascals on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Euston. The week before, when appearing at the Pavilion and Euston, they deputised for Millie Payne at Tottenham. Tom and Maggie are always sure attractions, and with such a bright and clever little show should go ahead.

From "The Performer" we learn of the death of Nat Clifford, the well-known comedian, who succumbed to malarial fever while on his way to Bombay from South Africa. He was buried at sea. Nat's success on the London variety boards was quite meteoric, though well deserved. He had been absent for some time from the West End boards. One of his chief successes was "Look at you looking at me." He was a capital comedian, and as a dancer could hold his own in any company. He was known as "the nimble one."

Miss Adele Levey on April 18, 1910, made her first music hall appearance as a story teller, so on the 21st she will be commencing her fourth year in the rôle of a raconteuse. She has gradually garnered a repertoire of over 200 stories and monologues. For a long time the fine-figured Adele has had a longing to see America, South Africa, and Australia, and after her London season, and after acquiring a heap of new costumes, she hopes to arrange a lovely trip.

Much interest has been shown of late in South Sea Island songs and dances, and now we may have a native Hawaiian comedian on our variety boards. Mr. Charley Stanford, who is now in London, is a Hawaiian by birth, and the son of a diplomat at Honolulu. He is a tenor singer, and also does some eccentric American dances. He will appear as an "extra turn" at the Tivoli on Monday evening. Messrs. H. B. Marinelli, Ltd., are his agents.

The first social entertainment of the Magicians' Club, which has only been inaugurated a fortnight, took place at the club's premises, 2, Gray's Inn-road, W.C., on Sunday evening last, when the president, Mr. Harry Houdini, was in the chair. An excellent entertainment of music and magic was provided by the hon. treasurer, Mr. Will Goldston, ably assisted by the hon. sec., Mr. Stanley Collins, who officiated at the pianoforte. Amongst those, who in their various directions, contributed to the pleasure of the evening, were the president himself, with some marvellous card tricks, Horace Goldin, H. Holden, Cecil Lyle, Stanley Collins, L. Davenport, Fred Charlier, Claude Chandler, Herbert J. Collings, Charles Price, and R. Prince. An accession of new members was announced during the evening, and it was intimated that the Sunday gatherings would be of frequent occurrence.

Miss Mary Fulton made her first appearance on the variety stage on Monday at the Hulme Hippodrome, Manchester, in her new sketch production, entitled "The Quality of Mercy." Miss Fulton scored an instant and emphatic success, and was immediately booked for the entire Broadhead circuit, and if the enthusiastic applause accorded her for her charming rendering of the part of the Hon. Mrs. Challoner on Monday night is any criterion, she bids fair to establish herself just as much a favourite in vaudeville as she has in the "legit."

Mr. George Mozart, a master of the art of travesty, has returned this week to the Coliseum, where he is so immensely popular. Naturally George has taken up a new subject for his peasantries since we last heard him, for he is nothing if not up to date. Burnt cork minstrelsy in its various aspects appeals irresistibly to the comedian as a subject rich in its opportunities for burlesque, and he certainly does not fail to take the fullest advantage. He patters about Mr. Bones, Mr. Tambo, the interlocutor, and the venerated riddles that are conned over by the middle man with black visaged solemnity. George also points out in his humorous little chats, the peculiarities of the black-faced men of the Scotch, Irish, and Hebrew types, and he brings the Cockney nigger comedian under his keen and witty observation. His comparison between the Ethiopian and the red-nosed variety comedian is decidedly happy. The Mozart show is tempered by shrewd observation and genuine fun.

Mr. Jack Williams, stage-manager at the Victoria Palace, London, warns all artists against a certain man who is calling at houses and halls for clothes to be cleaned. He uses the name of Messrs. Morris Angel and Co., and professes to be their representative, but is not, of course, connected with that well-known firm. We have recently heard from several victims of this man, and hope that this warning may be the means of bringing him to justice.

Mr. Charles Gulliver will present a particularly attractive bill at the Palladium next week, one of the most interesting items being Mr. Leo Stormont's surprise playlet, "N.G. . . .!" George Robey returns after his pantomime triumphs; Percy Honri and his company will remain in the bill with "Bohemia"; and Ernie Lotings will produce a new sketch, a man and there will be Clarke and Hamilton, a man and maid in "Mirth and Music." Yorke and Adams will expound the Insurance Bill as they understand it.

FEDERATION AND FUNDS.

Music Hall Home.

At a committee meeting at the Music Hall Home held on Friday, March 28, Mr. Harry Barnard in the chair, supported by Messrs. Arthur Were, Dan Robins, Tom Packer, Harry Blake, Douglas Stuart, T. C. Calaghan, H. Griff, C. C. Cornish, Dan Whitley, W. R. Dunkley, Ben Woodger, and Jesse Sparrow, it was resolved "That the Executive Committee convene an extraordinary general meeting of the subscribers to the Music Hall Home on Friday, April 25, at 3 o'clock for 3.30, at which a resolution shall be put forward to the effect that the Music Hall Home shall be amalgamated with the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund and Institution." The secretary acknowledges the following box collections:—Mrs. Fruin, 15s.; A. Trussell (Hippo), Manchester, 10s.; Empire, Camberwell, 7s. 6d.; F. Kohler, 3s.; S. H. Marsh (Empire, Dublin), £2 0s. 5d.

Music Hall Ladies' Guild.

Miss Melinda May (secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild) thanks the following:—Miss Lily Morris, donation 5s. (per Mrs. Chas. Coborn); also Anonymous, 1s. 6d., per Mrs. Coborn, and Miss Kate Toole, donation, 4s. Mr. W. Simelan (purser) has sent two guineas collected for the Guild on board R.M.S. Saxon. Miss Lottie Albert, Mr. Douglas Stuart, Miss Clara Reid, and Mr. John Power are thanked for useful clothing. Miss Ada Reeve has been elected a committee member.

Benevolent Order of Terriers.

Messrs. Joseph Osgood and Hans Peter Christian O'sen (the Ketos) were initiated into the mysteries of the Order on Sunday last. The ceremony was performed by Terrier Bert Marsden, W.T., assisted by Terrier Chris Baker, V.T., and Organist Terrier Arthur Were. Applications for membership have been received from Sam Stern (second notice) and George Wisdom (final notice). At the meeting on Sunday last Terrier Julian Mack acted as W.T., Terrier James Guidery as W.D., and Terrier Edward H. Lucas as Y.B. A hearty welcome was extended to Terriers Ernest d'Almaire, Herbert M. Damsie, Frank Melvin, Dan Whitley, Jack Merritt, Charles Clark, Charles Stevens, Harry Fields, Ted Karno, and Tom Gott upon their re-appearance in the kennel. Terrier Bert Marsden was presented with the P.W.T. jewel.

The election of officers for April resulted as follows: W.T., Terrier Chris Baker; V.T., Terrier James Guidery.

The first annual dinner of the Order will be held on Sunday next, at Frascati's, Oxford-street, the president, Terrier Ben Obo, in the chair. Reception at 6.30 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. sharp. Immediate application should be made for tickets to the secretary or to Terrier Tom Packer, 101, Kensington-road. Terriers willing to do a turn at the concert which will follow the dinner are requested to communicate with Terriers Julian Mack or Chris Baker, who are arranging the musical programme. There will be some dancing afterwards.

Little Betty Renée, who was one of the most delightful features of "Twinkle, Little Star," at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Birmingham, will make her first appearance in London on April 14. Mr. Harry Day is arranging her bookings.

Miss Lillie Langtry has had to refuse a most tempting offer to play principal boy in London next Christmas. She will sail shortly for a return visit to Australia. Lillie's last engagement down under was for fourteen weeks, and she stayed forty-two days of them being at the Tivoli, Sydney. Such a record speaks for itself. "The Electric Spark" is looking forward to her visit to a country where she made the hit of her life. This engagement is for six months' work.

At the special general meeting of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, held at the Bedford Head Hotel on Friday, March 28, under the presidency of Mr. Harry Blake, Mr. Syd Walker was appointed hon. trustee of the Association in the room of Mr. Paul Martinetti, resigned. Mr. Walker, who was nominated by Mr. Julian Mack, is vice-president of the Benevolent Order of Terriers, and his new appointment is another indication of the progress being made by that organisation.

The completion of five years' management by energetic and hustling Mr. Will White was not allowed to pass by the directors of the Royal Alhambra Theatre, Belfast, without substantial recognition to the genial Will, who was the recipient of a handsome cheque. Congratulations!

At the head of an admirable programme at the Victoria Palace next week are two of the most popular members of their profession—George Robey and Bransby Williams. The former will be heard in a series of his best songs, interlarded with certain up-to-date allusions, and the latter will present his remarkable entertainment in mimicry under the title of "The One-Man Revue." Elsewhere in the bill will be found J. W. Rickaby, Nellie Wigley, Flora Cromer, Hunt and Thomas with their sketch, "Father Time"; the Terry Twins, the Comedy Masters, Ernest Scharff, and the Spalding pair of skaters.

The Scotch heather is being set on fire by those two variety artists, Brandt and James. It says much for their turn, especially before a Scottish audience, when they were called back again twice after their encore. "The Ghost of the Violin" is a very catchy and aggravating duo. It implies pokes you, so to speak, here and there, and you cannot resist its charm.

At the Coliseum next week the military will be well represented, as, in addition to the two captains—Wood and Green—Guy and Grahame, who are from the Army, go into the bill. Happy Fanny Fields makes a quick return to reinforce the humorous side of the bill with her philosophy as the jolly Dutch girl; and the strong bill has a great musical attraction in the Elliott Savonas, who return to the house for the first time since their most successful tour in America. James A. Watts, the new comedian, will commence the last week of his engagement on Monday.

Mona Magnet, who has been the big surprise of the Birmingham pantomime season, opened a "star act" at Aston Hippodrome on Monday evening in three new character comedy songs. She sang an Irish number, following with excellent songs in Scotch and Welsh dialect. Her songs were deservedly appreciated, her manner being delightfully chic, and her dialect convincing. Next week Miss Magnet goes to the Birmingham Empire. She has been re-booked by Mr. Leon Salberg, of the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, to play principal girl at Nottingham Grand next week, and to return to the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, as principal girl the year following. She holds Moss' Empire dates into 1915, and several proprietors have booked her into 1916. Miss Magnet is solely represented by Chris. Towler, the Birmingham agent, who "discovered" her about twelve months ago.

ACTS, ARTISTES, AND AGENTS.

We understand that Mr. W. Buchanan Taylor holds a signed contract from Mr. Fred Kitchen for the sole bookings of that comedian.

Menetkel (the Writing Ball), also Miss Kitty Wager and Fred Poplar, sailed last Saturday by R.M.S. Kildonan Castle, to fulfil engagements on the Africa's Amalgamated Circuit, and next Saturday Mr. Rufe Naylor will despatch Miss Gipsy Woolf and Girls and The Gilberts for the same tour.

About the prettiest and best stage animal act we have seen for a long time was that presented by Miss Millie Dagmar at the Camberwell Empire last week. The lady appears in a very attractive costume, and is assisted by another girl and a groom, all appropriately attired. The animals in the act consist of nine dogs and a handsome pony stallion, which pulls a very nice vehicle around the stage, while the dogs perform all kinds of clever and pretty tricks. The act had an enormous reception, this being its first appearance in London after a most successful Australian and African tour. The turn is being handled by Rufe Naylor's Agency.

Mr. Rufe Naylor reports that business on the Africa's Amalgamated Circuit has been very good recently, and the company intend shortly to add two new theatres to their list; the stages on several of their halls will also be enlarged, so that the very biggest English acts can play the whole tour. Mr. Naylor has openings for three very good single or double acts during next month.

One of the most active agents in London at the present time is Mr. Julian Wylie, who is handling, at the present moment, some of the biggest acts in vaudeville. Mr. Wylie features an "idea department," from which enterprising and novel schemes are continually emanating, for the benefit both of himself and his clients. Mr. Wylie is at present anxious to secure cabaret artists of all descriptions, and invites all interested to communicate with him at 18, Charing Cross-road immediately.

Mr. Harry Burns is well represented on the South London bill this week. In addition to John Earle, an original comedian new to London, Mr. Burns also arranged for the appearance here of Elvira Delmonte and Co., in a refined musical act, and Messrs. Ed. E. Ford and Harry Claff's new sketch, entitled "Scalped." All three acts have proved instantaneous successes.

Herbert Lamartine and Jean Schuller and company, booked through Will Collins and Co., will sail for South Africa by the s.s. Walmer Castle on Saturday next.

GRECIAN DANCES AT THE TIVOLI.

Ruby Ginner, a lady of considerable personal attractions, has evidently made a study of the classical mode of dancing, and has fortunately brought with her to the Tivoli a troupe of young corymbes who have become imbued with the Greek traditions of Terpsichore, and who are able to realise the dramatic, as well as the emotional, nature of the various dances that they are called upon to interpret. In the first movement, entitled "Morning," the girls, dressed as wood nymphs, trip joyously as though inspired with the poetic desire to lift, as Tennyson says, "the dark eyelash of the Night from off the rosy cheek of waking day." Beautiful in its sombre setting by the immortal Grieg, "the death of Asa" makes a touching appeal; and the wind-up, a Trepac by Tschakowski, has the folk spirit and national sentiment embodied in its gay movements and inspiring music. Such dancing is indeed welcome.

Miss Minnie Leslie leaves England for South Africa on May 17, on a three months' contract with the Palladium Theatres, Ltd., doing repertoire and taking out some very lovely frocks.

Mr. Harry Taft is causing a furore this week at the Surrey in his new act, the audience cheering him at each performance. Mr. Rufe Naylor has booked him to appear again in South Africa, and he will be starting in February next. He also is booked for America, and sails on April 30.

Nellie Burt, the American artiste who appeared at the Birmingham Empire last week, issued a challenge to any lady in Birmingham who could wear her shoes. Mrs. E. C. Lucas, of 25, Lee Bank-road, Edgbaston, easily won the challenge, and on Saturday night was paid the £5 offered by the management of the Empire.

Mr. George Rapley has been waking them up at the Alexandra, Stoke Newington, where he has been deputising for Mr. J. W. Winton, the Australian ventriloquist. In consequence of his success George is re-engaged for next week.

Alfred Lester, supported by his company, in the clever burlesque "The Village Fire Brigade," and Neil Kenyon in some of his famous character studies of Highland workers, will be the chief attraction at Finsbury Park Empire next week.

Miss Frances Letty and Co. will also present a gorgeous scene, "The Palace of Gold." In this will be given something very novel in the way of vocalism, dancing, and rag-time pianoforte playing. Louis Tracy, "the dapper dandy boy," is a newcomer with a style of her own, and the Caselli Sisters are welcome dancers.

"The Work Girl," a drama of London life, will be staged at the New Middlesex next week, with Mr. George Conquest in his original part of Loo Genesis. Oswald Williams, the English illusionist, Rich Taylor, the whistling ventriloquist, and Jenny Castelle, comedienne, will supply the variety section.

Bissett and Scott, a clever pair of step dancers, at present appearing at the Empire, Glasgow, have also been deputising at the Coliseum for Burnell's Crazy Golfers, absent owing to illness. Bissett and Scott made a great hit in the south-side hall at every performance.

Variety has found another recruit in the person of Mr. Tom Seymour, who for some years past has been popular in musical comedy on tour. He produced on March 1 at Collins's, an entirely new comedy sketch, by Sydney Blow and Douglas Hoare, entitled "A Girl in Every Port." Henschel's Agency immediately booked it, and Peel's Agency, Ltd., are doing the same. At Portsmouth this week the sketch is repeating the success it made on its original production.

A circular issued to the Prefects of Departments and directors of theatres by M. Léon Berard, the French Under-Secretary of State for Fine Arts, affects the employment of children on the stage—theatre, variety, or café-concert. In future no child under nine will be permitted to appear at all on the stage. Theatres in which children form the cast will continue to be prohibited, as is the employment of children under thirteen for café-concerts. No child under sixteen may perform perilous feats or dislocation exercises. Children must hold a school certificate; otherwise they cannot be employed, even during the vacation, on tour.

A KING'S UNDISPUTED SWAY.

All indications at the moment would appear to point to the remarkable and epoch-making régime of Feldman being still more firmly planted on its base, ably buttressed as it now is by the unscalable fortress of public opinion, and against which the battering-ram of Envy is as powerless as the penny popgun of a gamin would be in an assault on the Tower of London. As a matter of fact, in the case of the Arthur-street house, within the next few days we shall have such an array of new Feldman numbers introduced into the new revues, "All the Winners" at the Empire, "Come Over Here" at the London Opera House, and "What Ho, Rag-time!" in the provinces, as have never been known to emanate from one house in the history of the publishing annals of this country, or, we might safely add, that of any other land under the sun. What, pray, does this remarkable fact convey? Assuredly, in the first place, that the house of Feldman know their business, and, secondly, that the goods they are purveying are those which the public want—in fact, not alone want, but won't do without. And what is it the public are wanting now in the way of amusements? Undoubtedly, it is rag-time; and as the best is to be got only from the Rag-time King, hence the colossal success of the Arthur-street house.

Mr. Seymour Hicks, who is reputed to be one of the most astute of our artistes, has brought back with him from America the latest and brightest items of the moment, and, needless to say, these will in due course see the light of day bearing the Arthur-street imprint.

The Palace, that splendid house of Mr. Butt's in Cambridge-circus and Shaftesbury-avenue, has now got one of the brightest shows in the metropolis—namely, "Le Petit Cabaret," a rag-time revue of Feldman's importations—and the appreciation of the audience proves this revue to be the tit-bit of a strong programme. At the Hippodrome, "Hullo, Ragtime!" still holds sway as London's big attraction, and the No. 2 company of "Hullo, Rag-time!" and "What Ho, Rag-time" (a new Revue) at Liverpool this week are carrying all before them. With a crown of such priceless gems as these, King Feldman is assured of a long, prosperous, and undisturbed reign. Imitators and envious rivals may carp and snarl, and attempt to bait him as he sways the sceptre over the votaries of Musicdom; but his majesty is not having any at the moment, thank you. He has been installed in the seat of power, and all attempts to dethrone the musical monarch will prove fruitless, so long as he holds the master key which unlocks the sanctuary of public opinion, and to which charlatans and empiricists are forbidden access.

Ever on the qui vive for novelty, the astute management of the Hippodrome have this week introduced Harry Williams and Nat. D. Ayer, who have to their credit the introduction to this country of Irving Berlin's latest sensation, "Snooky Oookums"—a song that leaped into popularity in a night, and which is the most talked of and best tipped number for the future winner of the Popularity Stakes. The importance of securing such a valuable money-maker as "Snooky Oookums" ought to be apparent to any artiste who gives the matter the least consideration, and, with Mr. Bert Feldman backing the number as a certain prize-taker, no artiste should lose a moment in obtaining the song from the Arthur-street emporium.

"The big little girl," as Miss Irene Dillon has been affectionately termed by a public with a warm corner in their hearts for the charming artiste, has returned to London for a short spell, after her most successful Birmingham pantomime engagement, where she won all hearts, to say nothing of the local prize. Miss Dillon's success in this country has been electrical. She is bombarded with offers for musical comedy, for revues, etc., as well as for colonial engagements; and it will be interesting to see who will be the fortunate ones to secure her services, for Miss Dillon is an artiste who is undoubtedly destined to fill an important niche in the Temple of the Drama in the very near future. Furthermore, her prudence and ability are well manifested in another direction, as she selects her material exclusively from the Feldman storehouse. At present in her repertoire she features the following songs of the firm:—"When the midnight choo choo leaves for Alabama," "On the Mississippi," "I'm afraid, pretty maid, I'm afraid," and the popular favourite, "That mysterious rag."

At the Victoria Palace this week Miss Maud Tiffany is scoring a continuation of her previous London successes. She has just returned from a short visit to the States, but we doubt if even there she has such legions of friends as she has secured in this country after a short stay amongst us. Her reception at the Victoria Palace nightly is most gratifying to her publishers, Messrs. Feldman and Co., as well as to Miss Tiffany. The gifted artiste has brought from the States with her one of Irving Berlin's latest sensations, "At the devil's ball," and the number has been remarkably well received by the intelligent audiences at that select house—the Victoria Palace—during the week. But the patrons, while applauding the new, must hear once more the strains of an old friend, and Miss Tiffany is constrained to give "Everybody's doing it" before she can make her exit.

Miss Ivey Latimer is making her first appearance in London—at the Victoria Palace—since her most successful pantomime season at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, and she is featuring "In the garden of my heart," which was such an enormous hit with her in "Auld Reekie." By the way, this ballad promises to be one of the greatest song-hits that this country has ever known, and the delightfully artistic way in which this charming young vocalist renders the number calls for the highest possible commendation. Undoubtedly, in Miss Latimer's hands Feldman's artistic ballad finds a most capable exponent. She brings the house down with the Arthur-street firm's "My hero," from "The Chocolate Soldier," and by the masterly way in which she renders all her numbers she has established herself a great favourite with metropolitans.

Since the introduction to this country by Mr. Bert Feldman of syncopated melody in its highest and best form, many troupes and combinations have been called into existence for its exploitation. We have "Hullo, Rag-time!" the Rag-time Octette, the Real Rag-timers ("the polished ebony of the black race," as they have been appropriately called), and the "Rag-time Revue," all of which troupes have met with a large slice of success in London and the provinces. During the present week we have had a most notable addition to these combinations, and one that bids fair to eclipse all its predecessors in this particular form of entertainment, under the title of "What ho, Rag-time!" Mr. Austen Hurgon is responsible for the entire production, and it goes without saying that the "turn" is checkful of those tuneful melodies in the composition of which Mr. Hurgon has so often displayed a master mind and hand. The production, which is entrusted to nearly forty performers for presentation, received its send-off at the Liverpool Hippodrome, one of the many excellent houses owned by the Variety Theatre Controlling Co., and it is certainly

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another feather in the well-ornamented cap of the general-manager of the company (Mr. Paul Murray), that he was the medium through which the theatrical public have been enabled to enjoy one of the most pleasing programmes of real musical comedy that have been presented in a variety theatre for years.

Among the rag-time numbers featured by the members of "What Ho, Rag-time!" the house of Feldman, as a matter of course, looms largely and all the Feldman numbers have proved screaming successes, that of "Mobile Bay," perhaps, gaining the largest measure of applause. Among the other Feldman songs are:—"On the Mississippi," "When the midnight choo choo leaves for Alabama," "I want to be in Dixie," "My Persian rose," and "Rag-time soldier man." The success of the latest revue by Mr. Hurgon is nothing less than sensational, and we understand that booking managers are vying with each other in their attempt to secure this really magnetic attraction for their halls.

Summer will soon be with us, and as the fine weather appertaining to that season would appear to have about set in, seaside entertainment providers ought at once to put their houses in order. Everything points to a rich harvest being in store for pierrots in this year of grace, 1913, but in order to garner all the ears into the granary, outdoor entertainers must equip themselves with rare money-makers—that is to say, songs that the public must have, and that they won't go without. Rag-time melodies will undoubtedly prove all the rage at fashionable watering-places this season, and therefore it is the bounden duty of artistes to go at once to the fountain-head of rag-time in this country—Feldman's, of Arthur-street—and lay in a stock of all the prize-winning items which that famous firm can arm them with. This is how pierrots can gather hay while the sun shines, and lay by something in the stocking for the rainy day that is certain to come ere another Hallowe'en pays us a visit.

A correspondent writes:—"Many a good new song has received its death warrant at the hands of an indifferent artiste, but Feldmans seem to know no failure in regard to the introduction of their new numbers. Perhaps it is the songs which inspire the singers to such noteworthy performances. In any case I have never yet known a Feldman song to do other than raise the reputation of the artiste staging it."

A novelty instrumental act is not of much use if the musical numbers played are not well selected. We have often witnessed the discomfiture of really able performers because of their inability to cater for public taste in the matter of music performed. The music may be well played, but if it is not up to date failure is almost inevitable. When we essay public performances it is the public taste we must consider, not our own. The success of Sam Pearl and Dave Roth in Liverpool is certainly due to discriminate selection of the musical numbers performed. One number in particular caught the ear to a fascinating degree. We refer to "Snooky Oookums," the new Feldman number, which has already taken its place in line with the other successes in the same catalogue.

In the pantomime at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Miss Ray Ford enacted the part of Pretty Polly with the maximum of success. She has the advantage of looking the part, for a prettier or sprightlier exponent it would be impossible to procure. Her every entrance was the signal for spontaneous bursts of applause, and she never once failed to "touch the spot" with her various vocal numbers, which were all from Feldman's catalogue, and included "I want to be in Dixie," "Who were you with last night?" "I wish you belonged to me," &c. It says very much for singer and songs that both proved extremely popular right up to the last minute of the fourteen weeks' run.

A NEW WIRELESS INVENTION AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL.

To a private audience on Friday at St. George's Hall Mr. Raymond Phillips gave a demonstration of his latest invention, which is a new wireless apparatus to be used at sea, for transmitting alarm signals from a wrecked vessel.

Unlike the Morse signal of distress, which is at present in use, this new apparatus, by means of a very delicate instrument inside the receiver, has the power of stopping any message which may be in the course of transmission, and it can also give the alarm and so attract attention when the operator is off duty. The alarm, which is a form of siren, is set in motion by a continuous wave from the transmitter, and its object is to warn the operator to prepare to receive a message of distress. In the case of the Morse system the signal, S.O.S. was often overlooked amongst other messages. This is impossible with this latest invention.

Mr. Phillips claims that in the event of a disaster at sea his instrument would prove invaluable as a means of saving lives, and his demonstration certainly bears out his words. Exhibitions of the work which can be accomplished by this wonderful instrument will be given during the ordinary programme of Maskelyne and Devant's show at St. George's Hall.

At a benefit promoted on behalf of Donald Dinnie, the great Scottish athlete, by "Health and Strength," to be held at the London Scottish Drill Hall, 59, Buckingham-gate, Westminster, S.W., on Saturday evening next, Tom Burrows, "King of Clubs," will appear in a new comedy athletic sketch, entitled "Swank," specially written for him by Yorick Gradeley. In this piece the champion endurance club-swinging of the world will introduce a boxing, wrestling and club-swinging act, and will be assisted by Messrs. J. A. Austen, W. D. Ford, and P. Hastings. Jock McKay, the famous Scottish comedian, Hector Gordon, and Lyell Johnston will sing; Cecil Stafford will give female impersonations; and athletic turns will include fencing by Gerald Ames, boxing by Jim Driscoll and Spike Robson, and wrestling by Jimmy Eason. Tickets may be obtained from Mr. E. Stewart Smith, hon. secretary of the Donald Dinnie Testimonial Fund, 12, Burleigh-street, Strand, W.C.

The budding musical composer, without the resources and the name which are in most cases necessary to secure publication of his works, has found, says "The Daily Citizen," a useful friend in Professor Granville Bantock, of Birmingham. Mindful of his own early experiences, Dr. Bantock has devised a scheme whereby the Birmingham student, with music worthy of publication, may get it into circulation, despite the slenderness of his financial resources. The professor has started a "Publication Endowment Fund," which has met with considerable success. The interest on the fund will be used to pay the publishing costs of works composed by students of the Midland Institute School of Music, and approved by him as principal of the school. Although the scheme has been in existence only a few days, the fund now amounts to nearly one hundred pounds, and among the contributors are Mrs. Edward Cadbury, Mr. Richard Peyton, and Mr. Neville Chamberlain. A number of compositions have been submitted, and it is probable that the first use made of the fund will be for the publication of the pianoforte compositions of Barra Partridge, a boy of fifteen, whose songs for soprano and orchestra was successfully produced recently at a Birmingham Town Hall concert.

THE PALLADIUM MINSTRELS.

NEW PROGRAMME.

Flushed with the triumphs of their brief tour in the provinces, Mr. Eustace Gray's Palladium Minstrels have returned to Mr. Charles Gulliver's palatial house by Oxford Circus to renew their former triumphs. The semi-circled is more blithe and gay than ever, the sentimental ballads, the rousing choruses, and the jokes of the corner men being entertaining throughout. Fresh items have been introduced into the programme this week and several new numbers figure in the first part, over which the stalwart and big-voiced Mr. C. Maynard Brown rules as interlocutor.

Little Thomas, "the oldest minstrel in the world," still remains in the company, but has deserted the corner and now appears as a "turn." He gives the popular "Sarah" and receives the customary ovation, which induces him to deliver a happy little speech. Mr. Ernest Pitt's pleasant tenor voice is heard in "Hush me to sleep," and an encore is the result. Concessions to the prevailing craze are made in "Peter's wooden leg," which Mr. Charles Drew sings in rag-time fashion with loyal assistance from the "corners," and in "Hello, Cupid!" sung by Mr. Douglas St. Clair. In the refrain of which each member of the company holds in his hand an imitation receiver, which contains an electric light that illuminates his face picturesquely in the darkness. "That rag-time goblin man" is also sung by Mr. Will Haines, who has the vocal strength of the company to aid him, while various members of the chorus patrol the auditorium singing the refrain. Wally Scott accomplishes some extraordinary evolutions in his song, "I want to dance," which he sings in excellent style, and Uncle Mack, in "The giggling con," promotes the merriment of the audience. Mr. Jimmy Rich adds a neat dance to his singing of "Lucy Lou." Master Gunnell sings "Bye-bye Land" sweetly, and the Palladium Banjo Band give an exhilarating rendering of the Palladium Two-step.

The musical niggeretta, "On the Mississippi," forms the chief item in the second part of the programme, and its plantation melodies and characteristic fun are as enjoyable as ever. Mr. Will Haines is conspicuous with his quaint impersonation of the typical Southern dorkie who sings "On the Mississippi," and several concerted selections give added pleasure to the audience. The stump oration of Mr. Charles Clarkson has been brought up to date and is the occasion of hearty laughter, and Mr. Joe Morley's banjo solo, the sketch, "The Haunted Hotel," and "A surprise and then good-bye," complete the well-stocked programme, which no lover of fun combined with melody should miss.

JOSEPHINE DAVIS AT THE TIVOLI.

As we are in the throes of rag-time—even the ticket punchers and issuers on the Tube bring it with them as a solace on their daily tasks—then we would like it administered to us by Josephine Davis. She is merely advertised as a charming American comedienne; but really she is a splendid creature. In frocks that are a dream, and with a voice of sympathetic timbre, she captures the males to a man in "Parisienne." The lighter mood then takes her, and in picturesque costumes she impersonates a fair contadina who laments, with more or less of her native Italian, the absence of her signor. A comedy song, descriptive of the advantages and disadvantages of a harem, is her final number, and her vim and vivacity win a reception of much warmth. Billy Geller makes a delightful accompanist.

KITTY CADWELL AND JACK SOANES.

NOVEL MUSICAL SCENE.

A turn that appeared with much success at the Leicester Pavilion last week was that of Kitty Cadwell and Jack Soanes, who are to be highly complimented on the distinctly novel idea of their pretty scene representing Canada, which they travel. Mr. Soanes appears dressed as a cowboy, and his partner, Miss Cadwell, is dressed as a ranch girl, their costumes being of the accepted kind worn by this class. Later on these are changed to Irish costumes. Their entertainment is quite refined, and consists of "cello, piano, and violin playing, which is interspersed with singing and dancing, the finish being a cleverly executed Irish jig. They are both possessed of good voices, and their selections on the violin stamp them as masters of that instrument.

Miss Cadwell started with Albert Randegger on the pianoforte, and is an A.T.L.C. Trinity Col. Lon. She was for two years with Mr. George Edwards, and in 1911-12 was with Mr. Elliston, of Bolton, in pantomime. The couple have been on the South African tour with Mr. Arthur Aiston. Mr. Soanes has entertained greatly in London, and their new act, as we have said before, is quite a novelty, and should have a most successful career before it.

THE KURSAAL, WHITLEY BAY.

Whitley's latest hall of entertainment opened its doors on Monday, the 24th ult., after a remarkable achievement in building and furnishing, the foundations having been laid barely a couple of months beforehand. The interior of the theatre is tastefully decorated in the conventional style, white being the keynote of the colour scheme. All the seats are tip-up arm chairs, and are all on the ground floor, the prices at present ranging from one shilling to three pence. The proscenium, if somewhat low, is quite wide and deep, and is very suitable to the class of entertainment to be submitted during the opening weeks, viz., that provided by Messrs. Ambro and Houghton's concert party, "The Debonairs," who, it may be remembered, inaugurated their show at Whitley Bay two years ago.

The troupe is now working in two sections, one managed by Wil Ambro and the other by Geo. Houghton. It is the latter combination that is occupying the boards of the new house. Mr. Houghton, a gentleman very popular on the north-east coast, sings with all his customary feeling, and is also successful in some humorous dialect monologues. Mr. Walter Amner, another old favourite, is a quaint comedian of extraordinary gifts, and Mr. Harry Taylor, also a member of the original company, is a capable accompanist and quite a brilliant solo pianist. Among the new acquisitions are Mr. Charles Hargreaves, an accomplished baritone; Mr. Louis Holt, a clever entertainer at the piano; Mr. Harry Bright, who shines in rag-time numbers; Miss Lillian Du Venny, a comedienne with a sweet soprano voice; and Miss Maud Gardner, who sings negro and other songs sweetly and dances charmingly. The master-hand of Mr. Houghton is seen in all the concerted items and accompanying dances, which are, as in the past, quite a feature of the performance. Messrs. Ambro and Houghton are the sole proprietors of the new house; Mr. Geo. Houghton is the resident manager; and the proprietors have been very fortunate in securing the services, as acting-manager, of Mr. Richard Lyons.

Mr. Harry Liston writes from St. George's Hall:—"In your last issue of 'The Era' you say (about Miss Burt's appearance at the Empire, Birmingham): 'She introduces a novel feature by singing the verses of her songs whilst changing her costumes.' I have adopted that plan for many years past."

PALACE THEATRE.

To see Mr. Teddy Payne in a new part—and one, too, that gives him every opportunity for exercising his humorous qualities—is a refreshing experience for Londoners; and Mr. Alfred Butt's clientele finds a rich store of laughter in the new sketch, by Mr. Michael Morton, entitled "WHAT A GAME!"

Mrs. Falls-Deane Miss Dollis Brooke
Mr. Falls-Deane Mr. Graham Dawson
Edith Baines Miss Frances Hall
Harry Simmons, alias Alwyn De Vigne
Mr. Edmund Payne

Teddy plays the double rôle of a barber by day—plain Harry Simmons—and a society "nut" by night. In the first scene, outside the house of Mr. Falls-Deane, Teddy hangs round the front door, and whistles down the area for Edith Baines. While waiting he sees on the blind the shadows of Mr. and Mrs. Falls-Deane. The lady sings, to her own accompaniment at the piano, a ballad, which the little man outside cleverly parodies. Edith then appears, above the wall of the garden gate, to assist in a duet, a black cat also adding its "lament." The property animal is realistic, and was so cleverly voiced on Monday that we wondered whether O'Gust, the clown and animal mimic, had any share in the whimsical business. As Edith cannot invite Harry into the kitchen he threatens to enter the drawing-room—a proceeding that is becoming a hobby of his, as we learn from his confession to his sweetheart of the area. He has played the part of uninvited guest on several occasions; but not under the name of Harry Simmons! No; at night he is Alwyn De Vigne—promoted De Vigne, he tells his admiring listener. Mr. Falls-Deane's departure for his club leaves the way clear for Simmons. Mrs. Falls-Deane is determined not to be lonely, and recognising Simmons as the funny little man she had met at a society function, invites him in. Ushered into the drawing-room, he makes himself comfortable on a settee. "Do you know whom you remind me of?" He hasn't the least idea. "Teddy Payne!" is the reply. Yes, he has seen him, and remembers some of his Gaiety numbers. "Bird on a tree" is one, and "Puccininnies," the moonlight number from "The Runaway Girl" another. No better selections could have been made; but the bonne bouche of the show is the appearance of Teddy in a parody of Nijinsky's recent impersonation at Covent Garden of a faun in his choreographic interpretation of Debussy's suite, "L'Après-Midi d'un Faun." This is one of the best bits of burlesque that we have seen, and will be the talk of London. The dance has scarcely finished when the husband returns, and the picture of Payne's exit, with a dress coat over the faun's costume and the parlourmaid's apron fastened round him, is the concluding scream. "What a Game!" is the funniest thing we have seen at the Palace. Miss Dollis Brooke, a cultured musician with a nice voice, lends admirable aid; and Miss Frances Hall makes a lively and attractive parlourmaid.

In the Palace programme we always have a typical American turn, and on Monday Mr. Alfred Butt presented for the first time in this country Conroy and Lemaire, two American black-face comedians who have as the medium for their funniness a broad extravaganza which is called "The New Physician." There are indications in this piece of farcical nonsense that the burlesquers have put in some satire at the expense of the Insurance Act. But it is the contrast between the two that makes for laughter. The smaller has had the resolution to insure himself against accident and death. One wonders how he could have summoned up the resolution. The larger man assumes the most dictatorial air, and in the second scene puts his weak friend through a medical examination. Fun of the most uproarious kind is in the ascendant, and Conroy and Lemaire have undoubtedly justified their voyage across the Atlantic.

Another American—this time a lady—who makes good is Miss Grace Hazard, who is billed as "five feet of comic opera." Grace arrives with the whole of her wardrobe on her shoulders—not only the entire series of dress changes, but a neat little apparatus on which to hang them. In rapid succession she gives excerpts from "Fra Diavolo," "La Sonnambula," "Tambour Major," "Barbe Bleue," and "Bohemian Girl." Though the voice is not powerful, its intonation is true, and the singing is expressive or animated. As a final selection, she becomes a bonnie Highlander and plays the bagpipes. Grace is quite an acquisition.

Miss Florence Yaxmen opens the programme in burlesque con songs; and Hall and Earle, who are simply labelled acrobats, keep the house in roars. One of them is a clever clown, who, untrammelled by language, would keep an audience of any nationality laughing. Miss Nina Gordon has returned with her delightful songs and impersonations; at the piano; and other turns are Lucie Linda, a well-trained juvenile dancer; Marie Lo's "Dresden China," in artistic living reproductions of famous porcelains; Lynch and Zeller, club jugglers; and "Le Petit Cabaret," already noticed in these columns.

"A CHINA ORANGE" AT THE BEDFORD.

A Dramatic Episode, by Emil Lock, produced at the Bedford, March 31.

Countess Natascha Alexandroffna

Miss Alma Stanley
Paul Goveski Mr. Edmund Kennedy
Vladimir Morskoff Mr. R. Noble
Miss Alma Stanley, who is producing this new dramatic episode, by Emil Lock, at the Bedford this week, had a gratifying reception from the audience, who showed that their favourites are not forgotten, and the little drama made a notable success at its initial production on Monday. Russia is ever a fine field for sketch writers, and the author of this playlet has written a strong little play. The Countess Natascha Alexandroffna is pleading with Vladimir Morskoff, the chief of police, for the release of her brother, who has been arrested as a revolutionary. Morskoff strikes a bargain, and offers her her brother's freedom if the Countess will obtain from her lover, Paul Goveski, the name of a secret society. Paul hesitates to betray his friends, but eventually writes down a name. Morskoff enters and seizes the paper, and finds Paul has written his own name. The Countess knows it is not correct, but Morskoff says that will do for his purpose, as Paul has been mixed up with secret societies in days gone by. The Countess, to save her lover, offers to give Morskoff other important clues he desires, and then cleverly makes him believe she is the person he seeks. She then produces a bomb—as Morskoff believes—and secures from him, under threat of dashing it down at that moment, passports for Paul and herself and the release of her brother. Morskoff leaves, and the Countess throws the "bomb" on the ground and breaks it. It is, after all, only a china orange; but, coupled with a woman's ingenuity, it has saved them. Miss Stanley makes a decided hit by her admirable rendering of the Countess, while Mr. F. Kennedy and Mr. R. Noble lend fine support in their respective parts. The success of the production was unmistakable, and one hopes to see Miss Stanley in it at a West End hall.

Those popular and refined young artistes, the Rawsons (Maggie and Jack), after a provincial tour of nineteen weeks, are due to make their appearance at the Coliseum on Monday next.

NATIONAL RESERVE MATINEE AT THE METROPOLITAN.

By the courtesy of the management of the Metropolitan Theatre of Varieties, Edgware-road, a benefit matinee was given there on Saturday afternoon last, with a view to raising funds to provide a new clubhouse and gymnasium, with a rifle range, for the members of the Paddington battalions of the National Reserve.

A full and entertaining programme had been arranged by the entertainment committee—Lieut. Col. J. M. Richardson, Capt. Granville Baker, and Messrs. Gerald Fitzgibbon and Fife Scott—which was much appreciated by a large and enthusiastic audience, among whom were Major-General Sir John Stevens and the Mayor of Paddington.

A smart little one-act comedy, by Arthur Eckersley, was the principal item on the programme. Its title is—

"OUR MUTUAL WIFE."

Sir Mervyn Jenkins, M.D. Mr. Charles Kenyon
Bland Mr. Edward Rigby
Mr. Hutton Mr. Robert Pateman
Mr. Jones Mr. Cyril Ashford
Sal Miss Dora Barton

The cloud of the sketch, which was originally produced at a charity matinee at the Alhambra, on Nov. 24, 1910, is a specially ingenious form of fraud, arranged by a female thief known as Flash Sal, in conjunction with one, Bland, the butler to Sir Mervyn Jenkins, a mental specialist. The woman had gone the evening before the action of the play commences to the shop of Rice and Hutton, diamond merchants, representing herself as Lady Jenkins, wife of Sir Mervyn, and asking that a quantity of gems shall be brought to the doctor's house on the following morning, so that her husband may select a present for her. The jewellers are evidently suspicious, as they telephone to Sir Mervyn to inquire whether that gentleman requires £10,000 worth of diamonds. Bland answers that every thing is in order, and assumes Sir Mervyn's voice—a little stratagem that awakens suspicion in the mind of the mental specialist. Sal arrives just before the time appointed, and when shown by her confederate, Bland, into the consulting-room poses to Sir Mervyn as the wife of Mr. Hutton—a gentleman labouring under mental delusions—namely, that he is a diamond merchant. He will call shortly and try and sell Sir Mervyn some diamonds, which, she says, are her own jewels in a case. Would Sir Mervyn pretend to buy them, let her (Sal) pose as his wife, and give them to her, so that she may remove the gems while he detains the patient. Certainly he will. The soi-disant Lady Mervyn, alias Mrs. Hutton, alias Sal, exits with the jewels in triumph; but the doctor has a surprise awaiting Sal, who is arrested by Jones, a detective, when she reaches the hall. Sir Mervyn himself tackles Bland, the butler. Having fooled him to the top of his bent, he suddenly covers him with a revolver, and requests the bewildered Hutton—who has been an interested witness—to open an inner door, through which the detective leads in the lady "crook" handcuffed, the curtain coming

"THE RETIRED DUSTMEN" AT FINSBURY PARK.

The Brothers Egbert, who are presenting their latest, most successful, and undoubtedly best act, bearing the above title, at the Finsbury Park Empire, this week, proved themselves the laughing hit of the programme on Monday evening. The act, which has for setting a really delightful cottage and garden piece, gives them the opportunity to introduce much witicism, in addition to their exceedingly clever acrobatic business. Briefly, the action is as follows: The "happy dustmen," well known as the heroes of previous exploits, have now retired, and Bill, who has built for himself a rural cottage, and laid out a carefully planned garden, is visited by his old friend, Walter, who has also retired. Bill intends his friend to earn his keep by rendering useful assistance in sundry gardening matters. But though Bill is constructive, Walter, albeit well-meaning, is decidedly destructive. Thus wrangles ensue, and these are complicated by a football match, a Russian band of musicians, a cabman, and other disturbing elements, which, though prosaic of description, yet serve as material for numerous ludicrous situations and laughable incidents. The climax and conclusion is reached when the pair execute a clever burlesque of two Russian dancers—a skit, we may add, that contains many feats fully as difficult and as clever as that extraordinary "whirlwind" dancing which it burlesques so well. The Brothers Egbert were accorded a most gratifying reception on Monday, and received high praise from all quarters.

"THE SUBSTITUTE" AT THE PAVILION.

"The Substitute," described as a comedy dialogue, serves to introduce to the patrons of the Pavilion this week Miss Hilda Thomas and Mr. Lou Hall, two talented comedy artistes, hailing, we understand, from America.

Mr. Lou Hall plays the part of a soft-headed youth who has been sent, as a substitute, to accompany on the piano a prima donna's rehearsal. The parlour-maid (Miss Hilda Thomas) disguises herself as her mistress and the rehearsal proceeds. Miss Thomas is a comedienne of exceptional vivacity and wit, and she sings several songs that pleased Monday's audience immensely. Her rendering of the various kinds of leave-taking to be heard on a railway platform in the States is, perhaps, the most effective.

Mr. Lou Hall's humour, which is of a quaint character, contributes largely to a thoroughly acceptable entertainment.

"THE TWO CAPTAINS."

Much comment has been made in the newspapers regarding the appearance at the Coliseum of Captain Arthur Wood, son of Sir Evelyn Wood, and Captain Henry Green, D.S.O.; but it is as well to observe that though their rank may have given a fillip to the curiosity of the public regarding them, they are both of them sufficiently gifted not to require the adventitious aid of military

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down upon Sir Mervyn ironically presenting Sal to the diamond merchant, Hutton, as "Our Mutual Wife."

Mr. Charles Kenyon makes an excellent West End consultant; the part of the guilty Bland gives Mr. Edward Rigby a good opportunity to display his talent; Mr. Robert Pateman plays the part of the jeweller with skill and conviction, while Sal alias Mrs. Hutton and Lady Mervyn affords Miss Dora Barton one of the finest parts possible in a sketch—an opportunity of which she makes full use.

Among the other items calling for special mention were Mr. Arthur Helmore, in his amusing sermonette, "Pat-a-cake"; Mr. Alfred De Manby, who, with his partner, gave a love fantasy, "Edith and Himself," in "Liebestraum," a charming turn; Mr. Harry Dearth deputised for Mr. Vernon Watson and Miss Phyllis Bedells, neither of whom were able to come, and greatly entertained the house with "When I was a shepherd" and other songs. Mr. Reginald Groom sang "Drink to me only," and "When we were one and twenty," and Mr. Sam Walsh held the audience with his two "Service" recitations, "Fuzzy Wuzzy" and "Charge for the King." Other artistes who kindly gave their services were Miss Alice Bolton, Mr. Dan Conway, Miss Rosa M. Whurr, Mr. Walter Churchill, Miss Oscar Marah, Mr. Harry Holmes, Miss Doris Carter, Miss May O'Connor and Mr. Frank Porter. A gymnastic display by the Aldershot Headquarters Gymnasium Staff, under Lieut. J. Betts, completed an enjoyable afternoon's amusement, and, judging from the hearty applause and enthusiasm of the Reservists present in all parts of the house, whatever their physical age might be, in the words of Mr. Groom's song, "Our hearts are one and twenty," which seems an appropriate motto for a National movement.

"SCALPED" AT THE SOUTH LONDON.

EDWARD FORD IN NEW PLAYLET.

Messrs. Edward E. Ford and Harry Cliff presented a new musical comedy playlet, entitled "Scalped," at the South London, on Monday. Unfortunately, the programme does not include the cast, but Mr. Edward Ford himself appears as the comedian-in-chief, and it is thanks chiefly to his humour and quaint make-up that the piece is the success it is. The story deals with the love affair of the daughter of a prosaic professor who is experimenting with a process which he calls "the elixir of life." He views with disfavour his daughter's suitor, and the latter, despairingly, threatens to exile himself in the wilds of North America. The old professor then offers the young man his daughter's hand, provided he can secure, whilst in America, the most ferocious Indian, for the purpose of the professor's experiments. The suitor hits upon the idea of passing his chum, Bobby (Mr. Ed. Ford) off as the Indian. The disguise is effective, and everything ends happily, except, perhaps, for the young man's rival, who is "scalped" of his wig by the make-believe savage.

"Scalped" is briskly played, and it is undoubtedly productive of humour above the average. It was exceedingly well received on Monday evening.

prestige, either hereditary or acquired, to make their way as entertainers. Captain Wood was with Sir Herbert Tree in "The Man Who Was," and is still with him in the first act of "The Happy Island," playing, of course, a less prominent part than he does on the Coliseum stage. Captain Green, who distinguished himself in the South African War, was a tenor voice of most agreeable quality, which he uses like a cultured singer. Captain Wood, who is the accompanist, has a genuine vein of humour, and as a society entertainer gives evidence of considerable ability. In "Where are the Territorials?" he pokes fun at the War Office, and not at the real good chaps who deserve more from their country than they get. Another topical song of his is "That would be a pleasant surprise," which gets well home. Captain Green is heard to advantage in a sentimental ballad, "I want you near," and assists the irrepressible Wood, who rag-times Tosti's "Good-bye" in a laughable finale. They were both naturally nervous on Monday, but the vast audience at the Coliseum soon put them at their ease and their reception had the ring of enthusiasm. Their popularity increases at every performance.

"HER MADCAP MAJESTY."

A Romantic Dramalet, in Three Scenes, by Edward Marris, Revived at the Palladium.

Prince Roderick of Van Hapsburg

Mr. J. F. Henry

Ambassador of Court of Ruhania

Mr. Frederick James

Jimmy Mr. J. W. Howell

Old Ezra Mr. Alec Alves

Maie Miss Dorothy Edwards

Skipper Miss Ethel Ward

When we first saw Mr. Edward Marris' sketch at the Holborn Empire some fifteen months ago, we were genuinely pleased by a delightful piece of nonsensical comedy. We do not use the adjective disparagingly, for it is by a unique combination of the ridiculous and the sublime that "Her Madcap Majesty" has proved to be one of the most refreshing, original, and successful vaudeville productions of the past year.

This week, Skipper, "Her Madcap Majesty," has won the hearts of huge Palladium audiences by her vivacity and simple disregard of the conventions of her royal position. It will be remembered by those who have seen the sketch that Skipper is taken from her humble home among the Suffolk fisherfolk to be placed upon the throne of a European State, as its reigning princess.

Sufficient praise cannot be bestowed upon Miss Ethel Ward for her altogether charming and capable interpretation of this winsome tomboy. The other characters are admirably sustained, whilst we have seldom seen a production of this character so well mounted and so elaborately and effectively dressed.

Miss Nellie Norway, the pretty silver hand bell soloist, has recently played before Mr. G. R. Sims, who wrote of her in the "Referee" last Sunday:—"I must not miss Norway, she was such a ringing success in contributing to the happiness of the evening." How nice of him!

ARTISTES' PRESS ALBUM.

This column is placed at the disposal of artistes who desire to give added publicity to the opinions passed by the Press upon their acts. Particulars of insertion may be obtained on application to the Advertisement Manager.

MORTON AND BOWMAN.

Tom Morton and Maggie Bowman present character sketches of a very amusing type, and their genuine ability and versatility are recognised in a coarser and his donah going to the Derby, and in a seaside swell and a pier coquette. The dialogue is decidedly good, and the turn is most enjoyable.—"The Era," March 29, 1913.

Tom Morton and Maggie Bowman are a very clever pair. Their jokes are crisp and appropriate. On Monday they scored, in all three items: the costers at the races, a spoozy couple at the seaside, and the young fellow at the foot-ball match with his sweetheart.—"Encore," March 27, 1913.

This, Pavilion and South London; next, Tottenham and Walthamstow.

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Mr. Lou Hall plays the part of a soft-headed youth who has been sent, as a substitute, to accompany on the piano a prima donna's rehearsal. The parlour-maid (Miss Hilda Thomas) disguises herself as her mistress and the rehearsal proceeds. Miss Thomas is a comedienne of exceptional vivacity and wit, and she sings several songs that pleased Monday's audience immensely. Her rendering of the various kinds of leave-taking to be heard on a railway platform in the States is, perhaps, the most effective.

Mr. Lou Hall's humour, which is of a quaint character, contributes largely to a thoroughly acceptable entertainment.—"The Wednesday Era," April 2, 1913.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MONTH.

Mar. 1.—Annual dinner of the Railway Passengers' Convoys, Criterion Restaurant, Mr. W. C. Simpson presiding.

2.—Water Rats Annual Ball, Trocadero Restaurant, King Rat Charley Austin in the chair.

4.—Mr. F. R. Benson gave a lecture on "Some Aspects of Shakespeare" to the members of the local British Empire Shakespeare Society at the Oak Hall, Edinburgh.

5.—Last performance of "Ester Castaways" at the Prince of Wales.

6.—Football match, Tottenham Hotspur v. Kicked off. Miss Marie Lloyd kicked off.

9.—Music Hall Artists' Railway Association Dinner and Dance, Criterion Restaurant, Mr. Joe Elvin presiding.

10.—50th anniversary of the Prince of Wales's, Birmingham.

11.—100th performance of "Hullo, Rag-time!" at the London Hippodrome.

11.—Sir Squire Bancroft made his final public appearance, reciting "A Christmas Carol" at the St. James's Theatre.

12.—Last performance of "Drake" at His Majesty's and of "The Sleeping Beauty" at Drury Lane.

13.—Academy of Dramatic Art matinee, Playhouse.

14.—Special general meeting Variety Artists' Federation, to amend certain rules, Bedford Head Hotel, Mr. W. H. Cle-mart in the chair.

14.—Sir Herbert Tree presided at the Poetry Society's dinner, Cheshire Cheese.

14.—Music Hall Ladies' Guild Reception and presentation to Miss Irene Rose and Miss Lottie Albert.

15.—Mr. James Newland's benefit concert, King's Hall, Holborn.

15.—Last performance of "Pretenders" at the Haymarket, of "Twelfth Night" at the Savoy, of "The Son and Heir" at the Strand, and of "Ask Quersbury" at the Globe.

16.—Drury Lane Lodge Banquet, Savoy Hotel.

16.—O.P. Club dinner to Mr. Forbes-Robertson, Hotel Cecil, Mr. Percy Barringer presiding.

16.—Annual meeting of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund and Institute adjourned to March 28.

16.—Opening of the Magicians' Club, 2, Gray's Inn-road, by the president, Mr. Harry Houdini.

18.—Benefit to Mr. George Raymond, Tottenham Palace.

19.—Miss Esme Beringer acted as judge at the students' examination, Shakespeare Schools, Red Lion-square.

20.—Benefit to Mrs. Glover, for forty years ladies' dresser at the Metropolitan Music Hall.

22.—Mr. Forbes-Robertson opened his farewell engagement at Drury Lane with "Hamlet."

27.—Annual meeting Royal General Theatrical Fund, St. James's, Sir George Alexander in the chair.

27.—Fiftieth performance of "Eliza Comes to Stay" at the Criterion.

28.—Annual meeting Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund and Institute, Bedford Head Hotel, Mr. Albert Voyce in the chair.

28.—Mr. Syd. Walker appointed trustee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, in the room of Mr. Paul Marinetti, resigned, at a special meeting of the Association held at the Bedford Head Hotel.

29.—National Reserve matinee at the Metropolitan.

OLD BOYS' HEARTY WELCOME TO NEW TURN.

Thursday last week at the Palace, Halifax, could be well termed "Holy Trinity Old Boys' night," for at the second performance they turned up in large numbers to do honour to an old boy, Harold Heath, who has been appearing there throughout the week. The old boys' emblem was particularly prominent, for practically all who occupied places in the stalls wore a buttonhole of red and white flowers. When Harold Heath was due to appear it did not need a programme for the audience to ascertain who the next actor was, for on the number being flashed on the indicator it was the signal for a hearty outburst of applause.

When the artiste stepped before the footlights the applause was renewed, accompanied by vociferous cheering, and continued for some moments. Harold Heath excelled himself in his clever turn, and at the close another storm of applause was heaped on him. He had to return to acknowledge this appreciation, and neatly thanked the huge audience, and especially the old boys, for their presence and excellent acceptance of his efforts. The conductor, Mr. E. Widdop, then handed Mr. Heath a handsome walking stick with solid silver handle on behalf of Mr. E. O. Waller, the manager of the Palace. The inscription was: "Presented to Mr. Harold Heath as a mark of appreciation from Edgar O. Waller, Palace, Halifax. March 27th, 1913."

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

CHELSEA PALACE.

This cheerful and "comfy" Palace, under the excellent management of Mr. J. Norman Berlin, attracts a large force of West-Enders, and it is no uncommon thing to see many of the smart set enjoying the varied programme always to be witnessed here. This week the bill is plentifully interspersed with variety, and on the evening of our visit a large audience welcomed enthusiastically the majority of the turns.

Tom Foy was in his element in the screaming absurdity, "The First of April." Tom's company of comedians lend valuable support. Miss Millie Payne was irresistible, and the popular character-comedy artiste sang two songs charmingly, one very pretty one being "Wait me to dinner." Sam Stern, we understand, has been specially engaged for this week, as the clever entertainer soon intends to sail for South Africa, and Chelsea audiences just love Sam, and wanted to hear his latest before he left England. "Hokey-pokey ice cream" and his clever parodies on popular melodies gained furious applause. Miss Minnie Mace is a smart turn, and the clever lady caused pleasure with her song, "I like your style."

Assisted by Billie Geller, Josephine Davis, who is described as "America's comedienne and stage-land's caricaturist," provided a capital novelty, especially "When the midnight choo-choo leaves for Alabama." Miss Davis won cordial appreciation. Little Pam did justice to the double rôle of drummer and dancer, and Ross and Lewis are a smart duo of Yankee Doodles, who provide merry fun. Doris Trevelyan is possessed of a pleasing voice, heard to advantage in sweet songs. The Seven Rag-time Gipsy Girls do wonderful execution as dancing fiddlers. This is undoubtedly a distinct novelty. Chas. Kasarac and company are highly to be complimented on their interplay with a great acrobatic act, "Buffet-de-falle." The Bioscope fills up a splendid bill, while Mr. Aubrey Kean's orchestra did fine work with popular selections.

KINGSTON EMPIRE.

The audiences this week at the Kingston Empire, and they have been very numerous at the two-nightly performances, have enjoyed a programme of exceptional excellence, and the appreciation of the onlookers has been marked by frequent applause. The Joseph Adelmann Family present a musical performance of a decidedly novel character. Four in number and dressed in one act in the costumes of Old Nuremberg, they extract some enchanting music from all sorts of toy instruments, as well as from a number of brass instruments, with from seven to ten outlets, which together produce the effect of a brass band of many performers. In a second act Mr. Adelmann and his lady assistants produce some remarkable effects on xylophones and drums, one of the xylophones being so constructed as to resemble the human voice. Mr. Harry Champion, "the quick-fire comedian," made a decided hit in his songs. Cecilia Storm and Mr. Robert Crighton, dainty American dancers, display considerable grace and skill in a number of dances, including "Boston," "The one-step," "The Argentine tango," and a rag-time dance. Johnny Woods scores a success in several songs and dances, the number, "I can't find my front door" bringing down the house. Hettie Zillwood created a good impression in her songs, "Rag-time waltz with me" and "Then he would row, row, row," and the Six Lancashire Lassies display considerable grace, skill, and agility in clog dancing. The Valde Brothers create much fun in their sketch, "The Eccentric Motor-Bus Man," in which they introduce an inflated ball and a pig, that are cleverly moved about from head to head. The Larch Family, a troupe of about a dozen gymnasts, give a very clever entertainment, in the course of which they introduce three ponies and a donkey. The concluding feat, in which all the members of the troupe are elevated on the feet of another, is loudly applauded. The programme is made up with songs, well received, by Miss Edie King; and the Empire Pictorial Chronicle.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

The great popularity enjoyed by Frank Tinney, America's latest importation, was fully demonstrated by the applause which greeted him on his appearance here on Monday night. Mr. Tinney's entertainment is quite unique. He is at home with his audience at once, and seems to enjoy telling them the tale just as much as they enjoy listening to it, but it is a cause of general regret that his occupancy of the boards is not of longer duration.

The Gresham Sketch Company, Limited (which we understand is producing several sketches in the near future), has a well-written little playlet in "The New Life." The action takes place in a shanty in the backwoods of America, where Mrs. Carthew, who is awaiting the return of her cowboy husband, gone longer than necessary on a journey, is visited by Dan Heferman, the sheriff, who informs her that her husband was mixed up in a drunken brawl the night before, and, after shooting one of the boys, steals a horse from the neighbouring store, and so makes his escape. He offers if she will come away with him to put the boys (who are after Jim Carthew for horse stealing) on the wrong scent. This offer she refuses, and Jim, returning home, is confronted with a revolver held in the hands of the sheriff. A pathetic little piece of human nature brings the sketch to a conclusion, for Jim, finding a garment his wife has been busy making, tears from her lips that she is about to become a mother, and the curtain falls on the sheriff calling off to the boys that their man has gone in the opposite direction, and so giving Jim a few hours' start in which to make his escape.

The little playlet was greatly enjoyed and fully appreciated. Miss Gwendoline Hay is a sympathetic Mrs. Carthew, a capital impersonation of Dan Heferman comes from Mr. Arthur Leigh, and Mr. Edward Lytton, the manager of the Gresham Sketch Company, Limited, ably portrays the character of the ne'er-do-well husband, Jim Carthew.

Frank and Vesta make one of the hits of the evening with their buck and rag dancing. This talented couple, who are brother and sister, the latter only twelve years of age, show what a high state of perfection dancing has attained, step after step being executed with wonderful precision and dexterity. Frank and Vesta, who hail from the other side (where Frank lays claim to be champion dancer of America), have certainly a great future before them.

Sam Mayo is always welcome. The Merry Harlequinade, a talented troupe of four gentlemen and two ladies, again delight with their artistic solos and clever harmony. Kathleen Kay enriches the programme with her rag-time singing; and the Three Comerfords and the Falcons complete the bill.

WOOD GREEN EMPIRE.

George Robey is the star in the fine programme here. He, on the evening of our visit, was particularly merry and bright, especially during his new "Mrs. Drivell" song, the fun obtained being extraordinary. He has some very smart patter and gags in this item, which is decidedly one of his best. Mr. Robey also gave "Poor thing" and "Very nice, too," the latter being well written. A thoroughly good entertainment is given by Billy Howard and Kathryn Harris, and another interesting turn is Torbay, the comedy simonist, whose many humorous songs shown on the white screen cause much hearty laughter. The arrangement and the working of the figures are decidedly clever.

Miss Irene Dillon is featuring Messrs. Feldman's latest successes, and is very successful with "When the choo choo leaves for Alabama," "That mysterious rag," and "I'm afraid to." Miss Dillon is a dainty and decidedly talented lady, for she possesses an exceptionally musical voice, and is also a toe dancer of no mean ability. Coriella and Eddie prove themselves clever acrobats and also fun providers, the difficult falls of the clown partner evoking much hearty laughter. Kara, the renowned Continental juggler, performs many intricate feats of extreme and complicated dexterity, a particular feature, the box and ball, being decidedly clever. Drew and Alders as usual are well received for their comedy sketch, "The Constables," which is still interesting, notwithstanding his age. Mr. Sims Woolley is a capital comedian, and Miss Irene Penso a talented violinist.

CHISWICK EMPIRE.

With spring knocking at the door, the matter of attracting the public becomes more difficult. At Chiswick the management overcomes this by a particularly strong bill, and very fair business is resulting. Mr. E. W. Eyre's fine orchestra is at its best in Suppe's delightful overture, "Morning, Noon, and Night." Tom Jones is a novelty as a whimsical Welsh porter, and his patter is funny. It is a nice point to whom one should award most praise, for Mons. and Mme. Agoust are equally facile and dextrous as comedy jugglers. They perform many feats, new and old, and it is so admirably done that one is content to leave it a question of honours divided 'twixt Agoust and his pretty partner, to say nothing of the mechanical cat. Elsie Hall, who hails all the way from Australia, is an accomplished pianist of exceptional ability. She met with a parti-

Lillie Soutter, who, however, manages to extract every grain of humour possible from the recital. Lillie's second contribution, "I'm looking for a husband," and, lest there should be a rush, she naively explains, "any old thing will do." Like Father O'Flynn, the clever comedienne has "a wonderful way with her." Smite and Smote, comedy acrobats, and the bioscope, "In the Pyrenees," complete an altogether exceptional programme.

WOOLWICH HIPPODROME.

It has been said, and we have heard it ourselves, "that anything will do for Woolwich," but the managers of the various places of amusement there have awakened to the fact that this is not so any longer. Mr. Stark, the new manager, at any rate has much greater respect for the judgment of the local patrons, as his programme this week testifies. Elsie Robey, styled "the Pianologue," opens the bill, appearing as a slatternly slavey. She first sings the song "I can't afford it," then has a "musical morning" on her own, using her dusting brush to play the piano. The Three Mahers—two gentlemen and a lady—are absolutely the limit in dancing, their wooden shoe number being most expert. Fred Lincoln creates roars of laughter with his quaint singing of "Joe! Joe! Have another go," and his still quaint playing of the piccolo. Abdullah's "Dream of Fairyland" is an attractive exhibition of terpsichorean art by two beautiful girls who perform in a magnificent floral bower or garden lit by over 3,000 varicoloured electric lights. This turn received vociferous applause and several calls.

Rich and Rich, clever comedians, with their clean and crisp patter, their dancing, and their musical number, "Girls we like," are very popu-

WHEN SUMMER BREEZES BLOW.

With the departure of Easter great activity is prevalent in the al fresco camp. The gentlemen whose principal mission in life is to supply mirth and melody "by the sad sea waves," at all events during the summer months, are on the qui vive to secure all that is brightest and best in songland for the delectation of their numerous patrons. The test of Pantomime unerringly indicates that many of the Star Music Company's popular Christmas numbers will be in immense request at the seaside this season: What self-respecting light or low comedian can afford to ignore the claim of such sterling winners as Whit Camliffe's "Mister Cupid," Mark Sheridan's "Wibbly wobbly walk," Phil Parsons' "All through the wedding march," Herbert Kule's "Woolloomooloo," and George Lasswood's "Ooh, that rag-time sea." Scenic soubrettes, too, cannot afford to miss Victoria Monks' great syncopated song, "I'd like to go on a honeymoon"; while the seaside ballad par excellence will assuredly be that all-pervading song of gentiment, "My heart is with you to-night," which, as predicted in these columns late last season, has proved head and shoulders above all competitors in point of success and popularity. Miss Dorothy Ward and Miss Nellie Wigley, who have each been singing this song constantly in the hall since pantomime, have been acclaimed to the echo for their cultured renderings of this, the world's finest ballad.

But—there are others! The indefatigable "placing" staff of the Star Company never rest on their laurels. They are constantly finding new "goods" to exploit and new artists of sterling worth to aid in such exploitation. Charming Miss

These go-ahead publishers have also just acquired Mr. H. Fragon's latest, "If they'd only bury Alexander's band."

It will no doubt be tidings of great joy to comedians to learn that generous Mr. Mark Sheridan has kindly consented to allow the Star Company to give a few permissions for the fine comedy song, "They all walk the wibbly wobbly walk." Therefore any comedians desirous of singing this great pantomime success on the halls should make early application for same to the High-street firm, lest the song should be snapped up for their particular tours, and this exceptional chance missed. The Star Company supply printed band parts of this droll number, 1s. per set.

In a season when we suffer from what may be termed an obsession of rag-time, to find a number that by dint of distinct originality stands out above all others, as does the Star Company's great syncopated success, "That ripping rag," is distinctly refreshing. As an intermezzo it is nightly being played by all the best society bandmasters, including D. Gottlieb, Fdk. Cacao, Julian Kandt, Eugene Meier, Stanislaus Wurm, Archibald Joyce, Felix Godin, Alex. Yantian, R. Farban, Karl Kaps, Corelli Windeatt, Arthur de B'one, Moritz Wurm, Arthur Crudge, etc.; while as a song it has proved eminently successful, as sung by the American Rag-time Octette and dainty Miss Esta Stella. "That ripping rag" is destined to "rip" things a bit at the seaside this year.

The magnificent array of new rag-time songs at present being exploited by the Star Music Company is the talk of the profession. These include not only "That ripping rag," but such magnificent numbers as "Little Miss U.S.A.," "Hey, ho, can't you hear the steamer?" "Oh, you great big baby face!" "San Francisco," "Oh, gee, that rag-time step!" "The zig zag glide," "The Johnny Woggle Bond-street crawl," and many other fine samples of the prevailing craze, sung nightly in the Empire Revue, Alhambra Revue, "What ho, rag-time," "Ragmania," Leslie Stiles' "On the pier," Herbert Randall's "The girl in the train," by the American Rag-time Octette, Palladium Minstrels, all Sam Richard's companies, and others too numerous to mention.

Dainty Daisy Dormer, who is at the Hippodrome, Manchester, this week, votes her new Mills and Scott song, "It's the best game two can play," which is, of course, a Star publication, one of the daintiest little ditties with which she has ever been equipped, and there can be small doubt that this piquant artiste will make something like a sensation with this fine new morceau on her return to town.

George Lashwood, fresh from triumphs galore with the Star Company's fine syncopated naval narrative, "Ooh, that rag-time sea," by Mills and Scott, has just acquired from the same author and composer a new comedy number, entitled "Beware of the widow," which has proved a tremendous success. Mr. Lashwood, who is at the Empire, South Shields, this week, writes that this is unquestionably the greatest chorus number he has had for some considerable time past.

"Little Miss Demure" is the title of Harrington and Henley's latest dainty number, the type so beloved of the al fresco artists for concerted work, and the pens that gave to the world the Star's big al fresco and pantomime winner, "Shepherdess of Devon," last year, have worthily followed up that great success with the number in question. Both Mr. Arthur Sutcliffe and Miss Elsie Malpass are about to work this fine Star number, of which Mr. Stanley Kirkby will make a special feature at Margate this season.

Eminently successful both in Manchester and Oldham this week, where it is being respectively sung by Miss Belle Sylvia and Miss Flo Esdaile, is the Star Company's beautiful new ballad, "When love creeps in your heart," and good judges predict that this will possibly outrival the same firm's great success, "My heart is with you to-night," which has already touched a record sale in sheet-music form.

Mention of "My heart is with you to-night" reminds us that the J. Miles Skavordale quintette are making a great artistic success everywhere with their great musical rendition of this charming ballad, and are the highly recipients of thunders of applause for same, as deafening as well deserved.

Miss Ella Reiford has in active study, for immediate production, an entire new repertoire of the Star Company's songs. The first of the series will be Mills and Scott's new Italian song, "Marco Pizzicato," which tells in mirth-moving strains of the adventures of a love-lorn Italian girl, who daily searches London for her recalcitrant lover, who is to be distinguished principally by the fact that he has a "monk-a-da-monk monk at the end of a chain."

Miss Billie Butt is making a very big success indeed at the London Pavilion. Both her songs are published by the Star Company. In the first, "Have you seen our John?" Miss Butt gives a bright, inspiring impersonation of a braw Highland laddie, while her eccentric business, delivery and dance in her concluding item, "I'll take you to the rag-time dance," stamp her as a comedienne far above the average.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

There is a veritable galaxy of talent here this week, and the bill booms with good things. At the top of the bill is T. E. Dunville, whose work is always excellent; his selections include "The telegraph boy" and "The panel doctor." In the latter he is excurtatingly funny, and provokes the house to tears of laughter; La Belle Linda is an agile and graceful trill cyclist, and wins torrents of applause; George Gibbey with his Lancashire dialect is greatly amusing in a ditty, "Bob down, you're spotted"; and Fred. Earle, a host in himself—is at his best in a ditty, "Wouldn't I like to be there now"; Baker and Balfe extract wonderful music from their xylophones; H. O. Willis chants "Praps so," to the satisfaction of everyone; and Dave Samuels gives a clever parody on the inevitable rag time mania; then there is Sylvia Phillips, a charming comedienne, and the Christie Duo, in their droll patter and ditty; Joe Elvin's company, in "What's in a Name?" which owes not a little of its success to the antics of this sterling comedian. The audience laughed tremendously at his antics, and the company supporting him is quite good. The Bioscope proves an attractive item, and Mr. H. J. Tilley manages the house with his usual skill and courtesy.

Mr. Leslie Ryecroft, who has been stage-managing for Miss Toby Claude at the Palace Theatre, has been re-engaged by Miss Ethel Warwick in the same capacity at the Little Theatre.

As in previous years the directors of the Empire have again obtained from the Aintree race-course the sole and exclusive rights to bioscope the Grand National. Cameras will be placed round the course, and a complete record of this, the Steeplechase Derby, will be shown at the theatre. Special arrangements have been made for bringing the film from Liverpool to London so that it can be shown on the night of the race.

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cularly enthusiastic reception, and on the evening of our visit was recalled thrice to receive the congratulations of a delighted audience.

Alexandre and Hughes, who made themselves so tremendously popular in this district in pantomime, met with a distinctly favourable reception, which is quite as it should be, for their cleverness is delightful; their dialogue is above the average, and is provocative of hilarity during their act. There is a great roar over Alexandre's list of people who merit a castigation, with his partner at the head of the list. Apart from their merry dialogue, both artistes excel as concertina soloists, and their selections are delightfully rendered and merit the reception their efforts deservedly meet.

Fresh from her Coliseum triumphs, Madame Eva Fay is here, achieving new triumphs. At an early stage, having submitted to being pinioned with wonderful knots and bandages, she is concealed behind a screen from which various musical instruments give forth strange sounds, despite the fact that she has been securely fastened. Later in the evening Madame Fay again occupied the chair, and replied to the many cheers prepared for her by members of the audience. The artiste admits her purpose is to give a bright, amusing, picturesque, and mysterious entertainment. In this she appears to succeed beyond every doubt. Her replies to the queries advanced proved satisfactory, and no one seemed disposed to cavil at the result; it is no figure of speech to admit Madame Fay lives up to her reputation as "a skilled and scientific manipulator."

As an entertainer Will Gardner is at his best. An imitator of Harry Lauder singing a rag-time melody is excellent; so, too, is the Hebrew money-lender. An imitator of a speculator at the Cup Tie is a clever morsel of character study. An invitation to Borneo does not find favour with

lar. Frank Armstrong presents a vocal and protean act. His first item as a duet, "One of the Knuts," is very good indeed. His recitation as an old soldier who has lost a son in the Boer war, is pathetic, and his final number, "In the park," very effective.

Mollie Gordon performs a pleasing toe dance, and later, in a new snake dance, has two immense pythons over 20ft. in length, and weighing nearly 100lbs., entwined round her. Mollie's Lilliputians, six clever little people, give a performance that exhibits considerable versatility, consisting, as it does, of ball balancing, conjuring, lightning sketching, trapeze work, tight wire walking, weight-lifting, dancing, and, as a finale, a most amusing wrestling match between the minutest pair.

John Lawson is here himself with a strong company in the play with a moral, "Sally in our Alley." Mr. Lawson as Bernard Gaster, the defender of women, evokes many outbursts of applause by his polemics, and his company gives good support.

It is very pleasing to know that Mr. A. E. Dobney, late of the Lincoln Palace Theatre, and now acting-manager of Palace, Scunthorpe, has been specially honoured by the presentation of a beautifully illuminated address and a purse of gold by his former colleagues at the Lincoln house.

Mr. A. F. Harris, of the Empire, New Cross, has been appointed the assistant-manager of the Empire, Cardiff, and started his duties there on Monday, the 1st. Mr. C. T. Hutchison, whose place he fills, goes to the Grand, Birmingham. Prior to leaving Cardiff, Mr. Hutchison was the recipient of a massive silver cigarette-case from Mr. Taylor and a few personal friends.

Jeh Latona is singing the Star's finest new comedy number, "Everybody's doing it at the seaside," and her hearers at the Stratford Empire this week positively revel in the wit and humour with which this latest hit from the accomplished pens of Bert Lee and Kenneth Lyle positively bristles. Miss Jen Latona is also singing the Star Company's new novelty song, "Hark! It is the thunder man," by J. F. Long and Paul Potham, a number full of weird effects and quaint conceits, to which this dainty singer does ample justice.

The Palladium Minstrels have recently introduced several new songs into their fine show with most consummate success. Chief among these may be mentioned that delightful number, "Off we go to by-by land," which, as rendered by Master Tom Gunnell in tones of liquid sweetness, never fails to win rapturous encores at every performance. Other new interpolations are, "Hark! It is the thunder man," "Mister Shadow Man," and "Hey, ho! Can't you hear the steamer?" All four of these fine songs are published by the enterprising Star Music Company.

Mr. Harry Fragon is an acknowledged tower of strength in any song he essays. When, as in the case of his latest Coliseum triumph, "All the girls are lovely, by the seaside," sparkling, witty words are allied to delightful melody and brilliant vocalism, the tout ensemble is a joy to all his hearers. Never was accomplished artiste better fitted with a song than is Mr. Fragon by Messrs. Worton David, Bert Lee, and himself, for the genial comedian has himself composed the ear-haunting music of this fine number, which the Star Company, who publish it, opine will be one of the season's greatest triumphs.

MUSIC HALL PRODUCTIONS.

MARCH.

"The Burglar and the Girl," sketch, by Matthew Boulton, produced for the first time in London; Bedford, March 3.

"Snore-And You Sleep Alone," farce from the French, by José G. Levy and Lionel Goldmann; Ealing Hippodrome, March 3.

"Cupid, Unlimited," burlesque, from the French, by José G. Levy and Percy Barrow; Ealing Hippodrome, March 3.

"French Leave," comedietta, adapted from the French of De Mille, by Percy Barrow; Ealing Hippodrome, March 3.

"The Knight of the Garter," sketch, by J. Harold Terry; Tivoli, March 3.

"The Scrub Lady," playlet, by J. Sewell Collins; Coliseum, March 3.

"The Woman in the Case," shortened version of Clyde Fitch's play; Empire, Shoreditch, March 3.

"She Pays the Penalty," mimodrame, in one scene, by Dr. Hefan Vachon; Palladium, March 3.

"Enquire Within," sketch, in three scenes, by Wal Pink; Empire, Glasgow, March 3; New Cross Empire, March 17.

"One of Us," comedy episode, in one act; Camberwell Empire, March 3.

"This is the Business," comic episode; Coliseum, Glasgow, March 10.

"The Woman in the Case," shortened version of Clyde Fitch's play (Act III.); Coliseum, March 10.

"Bungle's Luck," comedy sketch, by Charles Baldwin, music by Dudley Powell; Victoria Palace, March 10.

"Scalped," musical comedy playlet; Palace, Bath, March 10.

"Lolotte," comedy, in one act, adapted from the French, by John Pollock; Coliseum, March 10.

"Mum's the Word," comedy sketch, by Edward Marris; Walthamstow Palace, March 10.

"Up in the Air," playlet, by Stanley Dark and William Kirby; Empire, Islington, March 10.

"Desperado Dabbs," dramatic farce, by Herbert C. Sargent; Empire, Shoreditch, March 10.

"The Borsal Boy," playlet, by Hamilton Fyfe; Coliseum, March 17.

"The Office Boy," serio-comic sketch, by Horace Kenney; Ilford Hippodrome, March 17.

"An Awkward Fix," comedy sketch, by Allan Morris; Camberwell Palace, March 17.

"The Ruling Vice," dramatic sketch, by Jack Fortescue; Olympia, Shoreditch, March 17.

"The Key of the Situation," comedy sketch, by George Arthurs; Victoria Palace, March 17.

"Mrs. Peckham's Carouse," farical sketch; London Pavilion, March 17.

"In the Balkans," romantic water spectacle; Hippodrome, Manchester, March 17.

"Stolen Fruit," comedietta, by Cyril Twyford; Tivoli, March 17.

"The Jewel of the East," episode; Bedford, March 17.

"£20,000; or, Who's the Lucky Man?"; Grand, Gravesend, March 17.

"A Girl in Every Port," comedy sketch; Collins's, March 17.

"The Understudy," comedy sketch, by Cecil Howard Turner; Tottenham Palace, March 18.

"Thirteen," playlet, by Robert Elson; Empire, March 24.

"Her Only Reward," dramatic sketch; Tivoli, Manchester, March 24.

"A Dog's Chance," sketch, by Matthew Boulton; Palace Theatre, Reading, March 24.

"La Petit Cabaret," rag-time revel; Palace Theatre, March 24.

"Plats," sketch, in three scenes, by Fred Karno and Charles Baldwin; Easton, March 24; South London Palace, March 31.

"The Quality of Mercy," playlet, by J. A. Campbell; Hulme Hippodrome, March 31.

"What-Ho, Rag-time!," travesty, invented by Austen Hurgon; Hippodrome, Liverpool, March 31.

"What a Game!" musical comedy sketch, by Michael Morton; Palace Theatre, March 31.

THE GRAND OLD MAGICIAN.

THE RISE OF MASKELYNE.

The famous wonder-worker, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne, founder of Maskelyne and Davant's, has started upon his fortieth year of conjuring work in London this week. Seen by a "Standard" interviewer, Mr. Maskelyne, who is seventy-three years old, emerged from his offices, where he was on the point of completing a sensational invention. "I have still a number of ideas to carry out," he said, "and though I am off the stage I am always busy as a mechanician. The thing that first brought me into the business of magic was Spiritualism. About forty years ago the Spiritualists were very active, and as an amateur conjurer I felt that I could expose them by performing their tricks by natural means.

"I was a watchmaker at the time, and at Cheltenham I gave a challenge to two of the finest 'mediums' there have ever been. I fulfilled it after a month's practice. This first entertainment of mine was so popular that I had orders for it all over the country. So, much to my family's alarm, I gave up my trade and took to magic. I opened on April 1 forty years ago in London with an exposure of Spiritualism, and then I took the Egyptian Hall for three months with the idea of being able to put up a bill in the provinces to the effect that I had played in town! Well, the experiment was such a success that I stayed there thirty-three years, and, as you see, we are here in town still.

"This length of time is, I believe, unprecedented in the history of amusements, and, of course, my business is the oldest 'magical entertainment' of all. One of the things for which I give myself credit is that I was the first to arrange for daily matinees in the amusement world. Sir Henry Irving even followed me there. Of course, I have had some amusing times with the Spiritualists. At first it was quite difficult for us to make them believe that we were not mediums. They used to say that though I believed that I worked my tricks by natural means I was really subject to spiritualistic influences I did not recognise.

"What am I proudest of inventing? Well, it would be difficult to say. My whist-playing automaton Psycho ran for 4,000 consecutive performances, and I once had the idea of making a complete automatic orchestra with an automaton conductor. I got out the cornet and euphonium, who proved excellent instrumentalists, but then I became occupied with other things. However, my sketching automaton, who drew any well-known face to demand, practised his draughtsmanship for a day. Then, in 'Illusions,' I used to try to get out things which would puzzle conjurers themselves. My idea was that the sort of people who like magic like coming again and again to puzzle out the secret. My present charming partner, Mr. Devant, does not agree with puzzling other conjurers, and so we now confine ourselves to preparing illusions for the general public."

Telephone Call Office.—For the convenience of advertisers and members of the amusement professions, a public telephone call office is installed at "The Era" offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

CAPE TOWN, March 10.—Opera House.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Leonard Rayne; Sub-Lessee, Chas. Howitt and A. Phillips.—The Howitt and Phillips, jun., short season closes on Saturday next. During the week we are promised "Raffles," "Under Two Flags," and the evergreen drama, "East Lynne." Business has been very good, and general regret is expressed that the season is so short. The company return up country to renew their triumphs. We shall soon have H. B. Irving and company and the Quinlan Grand Opera.

Tivoli.—Sole Manager, Mr. Harry Stodel.—Last night the new company put in an appearance. The Bartz Trio, acrobats, are, without doubt, the best that have ever appeared in this city; Good-fellow and Gregson, comedy duettists, are most amusing in their patter; Miss Crislie Leonard, an old favourite, who has returned, proved that she has not been forgotten since she appeared at the Opera House. Other artists appearing are

F. G. Tucker.—The principal attraction this week is Ray and Calden, the famous comedy couple. They have quickly installed themselves firm favourites, as on their former visit to South Africa. Charles Erard, at the piano, is good. A clever Continental novelty act was supplied by the Seymons (equilibrists). In connection with the visit of H.M.S. New Zealand, both variety halls and the theatre are putting on extra attractions. Business should be good all round.

JOHANNESBURG, March 10.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessee, Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.—Mr. H. B. Irving's season. Manager, Mr. S. Arden Godfrey.—Mr. H. B. Irving's production of "The Bells" has proved very successful. As Mathias, Mr. Irving gave us another one of his wonderful character studies, and kept the house enthralled by his superb acting. Mr. Irving gets right down into the character that he portrays. The assistance of Mr. Irving's company, consisting of Miss Vera Coburn, and Messrs. Willoughby, Vibart, and Reynolds, makes the play a success.

STANDARD THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Leonard Rayne;

Banvards, aerial marvels; Miss Gertrude Lester, musical comedy artiste; Dillon Shillard's Grand Opera Trio, including Constance Balfour, soprano; William Saville, tenor, and Dillon Shillard, baritone; Lucy Gillett, lady juggler; Madge Omond, the pantomime boy; Eight Sunray Girls, dancers; Millie Jilison, soubrette and dancer; Belclair Brothers, athletes; Elise Clerc, Emil Zaja and Bert Clerc, in "A Real Ballet"; Elizabeth Clair, instrumentalist and entertainer.

OPHEUM.—Manager, Mr. E. D. Martin.—Star artistes this week are the Mojis, Japanese rope walkers (a sensational turn); Billy Hobbs, roon impersonator; and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, in sketches; and a very fine selection of popular films.

MISS RENE RALPH.

Miss Rene Ralph, the dainty character comedienne, has been achieving remarkable success on the Stoll tour. Our representative looked in

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

MELBOURNE, Feb. 25.—PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—Sole Proprietors, George Marlow, Ltd.—"The Monk and the Woman" was produced here for the first time on Saturday evening, and served to attract a large house. The two chief parts are in very capable hands. Mr. Vivian Edmonds provides a most creditable impersonation of the monk, Paul. He is consistently restrained, and bears himself with dignity. Miss Nellie Bramley also does very well as the woman. Mr. C. R. Stanford capably fills the part of the holy father; Mr. Robert Inman makes a capital De Montreuil; as the King, Mr. Richard Belairs is seen to advantage; Mr. George Dawe is well suited as Brother John. The comic relief (monks Peter and Jabez), who provoke much laughter, are in the hands of Messrs. J. P. O'Neill and D'Arcy Kelway. Other characters are undertaken by Miss Adele Holmes and Miss Elwyn Harvey, both of whom act in a natural and unconstrained manner. In addition to the final earthquake scene, Mr. J. S. Mann, the scenic artist, is deserving of commendation for the garden scene in Act II. "The Monk and the Woman" will be staged till further notice.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Direction, J. C. Williamson, Ltd.; Business-Manager, Mr. E. J. Tait.—The pantomime season here is still at its height, old and young playgoers having become interested in the story of "Puss in Boots," and perhaps more so in the clever turns which are introduced by comedians and others. The railway farce and the acrobatic comedy both cause shrieks of laughter.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Direction, J. C. Williamson, Ltd.; Business-Manager, Mr. G. H. Smith.—The infinite fund of humour in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is heavily drawn upon by the Oscar Asche company at this popular theatre. Mr. Asche as Bottom, the weaver, and Miss Lily Brayton as Helena, are supported by their London company. No other play will be produced by Mr. Asche in the present season.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Business-Manager, Mr. G. H. Barnes.—"The Queen of the Highway" is proving a very popular melodrama. There are many thrilling situations in this piece, and comedy, which relieves the serious acts, is light and breezy. The scenery is handsome and appropriate, and the orchestral music bright and catchy.

RICKARDS' OPERA HOUSE.—Personal Direction, Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh; Business-Manager, Mr. Frederic Aydon.—The Patty Frank troupe of acrobats made their first appearance here on Saturday evening, and achieved an instantaneous success. There are seven members, including powerful men and a mere handful of a boy. They are remarkably clever in aerial tumbling; they somersault with ease, and land on each others' shoulders, and also on to the head of one who is standing on the shoulders of another. Newman and Hughes, comedy trick cyclists, also made their bow. Their tricks were clever, and called forth loud applause. The George Bryant company appeared in a new sketch, "Pot Luck," which kept the audience well amused. Alexander Prince, "king of concertina players"; Claude Le Plastrier, lightning sketch artist; Cassie Walmer; and Tom Dawson were also contributors to the programme.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ben J. Fuller; Business-Manager, Mr. Tom Brennan.—The programme at this popular music hall continues to attract large audiences, the reversion to the minstrel first part having met with instant favour. Among the artistes who were well received on Saturday evening were the Three Marsdens, Marsh Little, Morley and Bates, Roy Rene, Black and Bronte, the Delroys, Donatos, and Verne and Smith. Mr. Fuller possesses a courteous and capable business-manager in the person of Mr. Tom Brennan.

ONCE AGAIN HOUDINI.

DIVE IN SHACKLES.

Just on the point of 12 noon on April 1, when the traffic on the Swing Bridge, Newcastle, was at its busiest, a singular and exciting incident occurred. A taxi-cab swung round from Sandhill, and was passing over the bridge, when one of the occupants knocked frantically with his knuckles upon the window behind the driver, who at once pulled up. Something was happening inside the car, and no sooner had the attention of passers-by been called to the fact, than the door of the taxi flew open, and a determined looking man sprang out. Throwing off his coat, he leapt over the barrier on the kerb, rushed across the foot-path, and scrambled over the side of the bridge, dropping down on to the stone buttress.

Three excited men jumped out of the car and followed in wild pursuit. Two of them climbed swiftly over the side of the bridge and down to the platform where the fugitive was now standing, apparently in a state of indecision as to whether to leap into the river or be "taken." Before he had taken any action, his two pursuers were upon him, and one of them, drawing chains, handcuffs, and other manacles from a large bag he carried—seemingly by a miracle of good fortune—they quickly had the shackles upon their captive, whose hands were handcuffed behind his back, with manacles above the elbow joined by a chain encircling his neck and doubling over his chest, where they were fastened with a heavy padlock.

Then the onlookers—who by now numbered hundreds—gave a gasp, for when the captors stepped back and took a breath after their exertions, the man in the fetters took the desperate step—leapt from the narrow platform into the water, fifteen feet or more below. A row-boat that happened to be in the offing at the time was brought to the spot where the man had disappeared, now indicated only by a few bubbles. Within ten seconds the diver rose to the surface holding aloft in his left hand the chains, handcuffs, and padlock with which, a quarter of a minute before, he had been tightly bound.

Immediately there went up a great shout of applause, such as that to which men with sporting instincts are wont to give vent when a fugitive baffles the police by superior wit or sheer ingenuity. In the present case, however, the police knew nothing about it—it was Houdini, the famous self-liberator and gaol-breaker, who had given a demonstration of his remarkable power, and it was with motives reconcilable with those of the boy who visits the pantry first and then asks permission to taste the jam that the thing was carried out so hurriedly.

The Georgians concert party, under the direction of Mr. Robert Carr, opened the season at the Derby Pavilion and Gardens last week, and large and appreciative audiences welcomed the reopening of this popular resort. The entertainment submitted was of all-round excellence, and included a burlesque on "Rag-time," Miss Maude Cole, a mezzo-soprano of undoubted ability, charmed all with her delightful rendering of many popular ballads; Miss Gladys Trevor was successful as a soubrette and dancer; Miss Roma Castille scored well in songs at the piano; and Mr. H. Hearne was a mirth-provoking comedian. Mr. Robert Carr, baritone, deserves every praise for his carefully selected repertoire, which secured for him long and continued applause; Vivian Vivian gave several musical monologues in artistic fashion; and Eustace Wallace, solo pianist, presided in a capable manner at the piano. This week the Vagabond Players are appearing, and an attractive list of bookings has been arranged for the coming season.

ADA REEVE'S FLIGHT.



Miss Reeve's globe-trotting records are many, but her latest flight eclipses them all. Ending her second and brilliantly successful American tour at St. Louis, she literally flies to Johannesburg, where she is to fulfil a nine weeks' engagement at the leading Vaudeville theatre, eleven days only being allowed for passage. But Miss Reeve is a born traveller; her spirit is indefatigable, her energies are unbounded. Audiences demand her, managers will have her, travel she must—and travel she does.

Loates and Stackdale, Bella Mora, Teddy Elben, and Marie and Billy Hart. Business is excellent. Indeed, Mr. Stodel has, and is nightly, reaping his reward for his energetic catering.

DURBAN, MARCH 9.—HALL-ENTER-SEA.—Managing-Director, Mr. Edgar M. Hyman; Local Manager, Mr. W. E. Simons.—Topping the bill this week are James and Elsie Finney (in their aquatic act in the crystal tank), which may truly be described as marvellous. This act was an immense success. Another popular turn on the programme is that of Bertie Fowler, a clever American lady mimic and monologist, in her character impersonations. This clever artiste is great. Marion Scott makes an ideal "boy" dressed in the Vesta Tilly style, and makes a great hit.

THEATRE ROYAL.—On Monday next Mr. Jacques Jacobs and his London Trocadero Orchestra open for a short season of six nights. Mr. H. B. Irving's season commences on the 17th inst. The opening production is to be "The Lyons Mail." H. B. will be seen in the dual character of Lesurques and Duboc.

CRITERION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr.

Manager, Mr. Edward Vincent.—D'Artagnan, in "The Three Musketeers," is a part that gives Mr. Rayne plenty of scope. As the fiery young Garcon Mr. Rayne gives an excellent performance, and he is ably assisted by Mr. Edward Vincent as Cardinal Richelieu and the other members of Mr. Rayne's company.

EMPIRE.—Artistes this week are: Farr and Farland, aristocratic comedians; the Haris, circus duo; Norman Telma, the boneless wonder; Horik's Russian dancers; Hand Alexander, in musical monologues; the Quaint O's, vocal comedy four; Big Brass Six, musical act, featuring Miss Daisy Squeel, the premier lady cornetist. The two houses-a-night system has proved very successful, and business has been very brisk.

PALLADIUM.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Sacks; General Manager, Mr. R. B. Young.—The Palladium has been having crowded houses since it opened last Saturday. An excellent company holds the boards, and business is exceedingly good. The company consists of Fred Karno's "Mumming Birds" company, including Billie Moran, Harry Daniels, and Harold Wellesley; the Six Flying

at the Shepherd's Bush Empire last week, when both her numbers were loudly applauded, and she received several curtain calls. She has been secured by Mr. Sidney Hyman for a tour of the principal halls in South Africa, sailing on April 19. She intends relying mainly on her own extensive repertoire of songs, and an expensive wardrobe is being prepared for her by Mons. Figaro. We wish the Elephant and Castle Theatre's popular principal boy a successful and happy tour.

"The Era" Annual, which has just made its appearance, fully maintains the qualities, usefulness, and interest which have characterised the issue for a number of years past. The productions and revivals in the English theatres and music-halls are given in detail with the full casts, and there are also useful lists of the important new plays and revivals in Paris, Berlin, and New York. As usual, many leading members of the profession have contributed interesting stories or anecdotes, and each is accompanied by autographed portraits of the authors.—"Birmingham Daily Mail," Feb. 12, 1913.

SENORITA CARMEN TURIA.

SPANISH PRIMA DONNA.

In recompense for the Queen which we have given Spain, to grace her Throne, that sunny land has sent us a Queen of Song—in the person of the accomplished and handsome young soprano, Senorita Carmen Turia.

The genial atmosphere of the early afternoon was tempered by a zephyr breeze; and the visitor was nothing loth to seek the spacious balcony attached to Senorita Turia's cosy flat, to indulge in the after-luncheon cigarette. Moreover, the enchanting view presented by a picturesque vista of Regent's Park, verdant with the young trees and shrubs garbed in the manifold allurements of the opening Spring, created a contenting picture. The visitor, comfortably ensconced amidst the silken cushions of a restful-looking armchair, gave the reins to "meditation, fancy free."

Impatient of Winter's rule, the Spirit of Spring emerged from her enforced retirement in petulant mood. In fine, she had frequently, of late, trespassed into Winter's domain, and, unchallenged, held whisperings with the virgin trees and bushes, and her own children, the pure white snowdrop, the yellow primrose, the golden crocus, and the fragrant violet, lying, as yet somewhat slumberous, beneath her feet. Emboldened by these clandestine meetings, the Spirit of Spring besought the Sun to smile upon these happenings; but he was in sulken mood, and gave but little heed to her petition. Nothing daunted, and the time for entering into her kingdom having at last arrived, the Spirit of Spring held forth her sceptre o'er wood and dale, and hark! and moorland; and expectant Nature smilingly responded to her call. The Sun, too, now in repentant mood, benignly cast his genial rays upon this handiwork. But, amongst all Nature's children, none were more joyous at Spring's cliffl call than the birds of the air, who, seeking each his mate, sang their sweetest songs to her. Pure as crystal waters babbling in the hillside brook, the sweet cadences rippled rapturously; and as a silvery note rang out in the air, clear and true, the dreamer awoke himself—and knew that his enchantment was caused by the lovely voice of Carmen Turia singing Karl Bohm's delightful melody, "Still wie die Nacht."

The visitor entered the drawing-room to thank the vocalist; and with a merry "I'll join you in a cigarette on the balcony," "The Era" representative and his charming hostess were soon engaged in an animated conversation. As the visitor had promised, Senorita Turia revealed that she is possessed with all those characteristics—the subtle lights and shades of the highly strung artistic temperament, and the emotional ecstasies which accompany a pulsating joie de vivre—which are the inherent attributes of the true daughter of the Sunny South.

"After graduating at the Conservatorio de Madrid, and gaining my Diplomas, I made my first real public appearance at the age of seventeen, in Grand Opera, at the Teatro Real de Madrid," said the vocalist. "At the conclusion of this engagement, where," observed the singer, with charming modesty—"I met with considerable success for so young a singer, I accepted an attractive offer to appear in Havana. Though I experienced gratifying success in the Cuban Isle, I soon desired to return to my own country; and upon my arrival I at once commenced to fulfil engagements to sing throughout the principal cities of my native land."

"Whilst singing at the Casino Municipal, Biarritz, many of the principal English visitors were most charming to me; and, as the outcome

of their suggestions, I decided to come to England. Soon after my arrival in this country (which I have now come to love and regard as my home, so much real kindness has been shown to me) I entered upon, at first, "At Home" work; and I was fortunate enough to enjoy the privilege upon one of these occasions of singing before the late King Edward VII., Queen Alexandra, and a large Royal circle, and received the honour of King Edward's personal congratulations.

"I thereafter fulfilled (this was in 1911) a signally successful engagement at the London Alhambra, and subsequently sang in the principal towns throughout England and Scotland—and, may I say, secured highly gratifying recognition both from the public and the Press. I returned to London to appear under the most considerate of managements at the Coliseum, and during the following eighteen months I again went into the provinces on the Moss and also Stoll tours, as well as the De Proce circuit; and frequently returned to Town for further engagements at the



(Photo by Charles and Russell)
SENORITA CARMEN TURIA.

Coliseum. Upon the occasion of one of these visits to town I had the pleasure of deputising for a short period for that charming vocalist Miss Ruth Vincent at the Palladium. During all the present month I am singing in some of the principal towns in the provinces; and in May next (the 19th, to be exact) I am again at the Coliseum—my sixth appearance at this famous house.

"What are my favourite operas? 'Carmen,' 'La Bohème,' 'Madama Butterfly,' 'Aida,' 'Il Trovatore,' 'La Tosca,' are certainly favourites; but I am somewhat catholic in my tastes, and therefore passionately fond of all good music. Tosti's 'Good-bye' appeals to me immensely; and upon one occasion when I sang it in London the composer personally paid me a most handsome compliment. But—well, I am quite certain I have been sufficiently egotistical, and as I see my maid approaching with the teatray, will you try one of my Spanish cigarettes to help you enjoy it?"

"THE KING'S CUP" AT EALING.

A Romantic Play, by H. Dennis Bradley and E. Phillips Oppenheim.

Capt. Erlito Mr. Vincent Lawson
Duke Nicholas of Reist Mr. Ed. Jephson
Walter Brand Mr. Henry Deas
Baron Domiloff Mr. Chas. Groves
Mr. Van Decht Mr. Leonard Calvert
General Dartnoff Mr. Arthur Ewart
Mr. Effenden Mr. Sydney Hare
Count Belstol Mr. Victor Moore
M. Berhovitsh Mr. Oswald Strong
Old Basil Mr. Chas. Wallace
Attendant Mr. Ellis Dee
Page Boy Mr. Percy Dyer
Sara Van Decht Miss Bertha Northam
Countess Marie of Reist Miss Jenny Lynn

"The King's Cup," by H. Dennis Bradley and E. Phillips Oppenheim, produced at the Ealing Hippodrome on Monday evening, is a romantic play, founded on a legend, which says that the lady who, by the King's express desire, drinks out of the King's cup, after the King, shall become his bride. The play opens in a flat at Regent's Park, rented by the King of Theos (under the assumed name of Capt. Erlito) and his friend, Walter Brand, an English journalist. On returning from a game of tennis with his friend, the King is surprised by receiving a visit from Duke Nicholas of Reist, an ambassador from the new Republic of Theos. The latter invites the King to return, and in order to prevent any harm happening to him on the way to Theos, Brand gets into his uniform and assumes the rôle of King. Domiloff, one of the Court officials, induces Brand to sign a most absurd treaty, and after a ludicrously funny situation, the real King assumes his office. At a public reception, the King, mad with excitement, invites the Countess of Reist to drink out of the King's cup, and the Countess, in view of the legend, thus becomes the affianced wife of the King. But the King is in love with a certain Miss Van Decht, thus arousing the jealousy of the Countess, who then hatches a plot, with the aid of her brother and the crafty Domiloff, to dethrone the King. After some clever manoeuvring on the part of Brand, he manages to gain the affection of the Countess, and gets her to make peace with the King. The intriguing Domiloff is denounced, and all ends happily.

As the King of Theos Mr. Vincent Lawson was a trifle disappointing, his acting lacking in emotional force, and being altogether too matter of fact. Mr. Ed. Jephson was capital as the Duke Nicholas of Reist, a part which suited him well; whilst Mr. Chas. Groves as Baron Domiloff was craftiness personified. An outstanding performance was that of Mr. Henry Deas as Walter Brand, the English journalist, whom he made a particularly interesting personage; whilst Mr. Leonard Calvert, as the easy-go-lucky financier, Mr. Van Decht, was no less successful, the smaller male parts being admirably filled. The character of Sara Van Decht was admirably portrayed by Miss Bertha Northam, a young lady with a fascinating stage-presence and a charming delivery, who made a conspicuous success. Much praise is due to Miss Jenny Lynn, who at a day's notice undertook the exacting part of Countess Marie of Reist, and revealed herself to be a versatile and accomplished actress. The play was produced by Messrs. Bransgrove and Slaughter, and with a little more rehearsing will prove a distinct success on the halls.

Telephone Call Office.—For the convenience of advertisers and members of the amusement professions, a public telephone call office is installed at "The Era" offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

MUSIC HALL FAVOURITES.

MISS LILLIAN DEVON.

Miss Lillian Devon's first acquaintance with the music hall world was at the age of eight, when her father, of the Musical Brothers Gartell, took her round in his brougham whilst working turns in London. Miss Lillian's first appearance was at the Washington Music Hall, Battersea, under the management of Mr. David Hart. She was then ten years old, and worked under the name of Little Lillian. Her first provincial engagement was at the Gaiety, Chatham, and since then she has played most of the biggest London and provincial halls. At the age of fifteen she changed her name to Lillian Devon, and believes she was the first to use the name of Devon as a single turn. Miss Devon can claim to be as versatile as any lady in the business, having worked in music halls, at fêtes, galas, circuses, airfresco,



MISS LILLIAN DEVON.

and played in sketches. She is also a capable pianist, and at the age of sixteen acted as accompanist on a week's variety tour with Hetty Lee, Johnny Warman, Mark Leslie, Smiler Lee, Brox Gartell, and others. She has also worked with her father as the Gartell Trio, and as the Two Gartells, playing mandolin, banjo, xylophone, sleigh bells, etc., and possesses a certificate signed by the Lord Mayor of London for services at concerts during the Coronation of the late King Edward.

During her career Miss Devon has undergone some annoying as well as some amusing experiences. On one occasion at a certain place of amusement in one of the home counties, the trio had to do their full musical act and Miss Devon her single turn to an empty house! Their contract was for two shows nightly—the first airfresco, and the second in the theatre; in the event of rain, both shows in the theatre. It rained heavily, and though not a soul was at

the first house, the proprietor insisted on the whole company doing their full show. On another occasion they were engaged for a week at a seaside resort. They opened on the Monday, and everything went all right. On the Tuesday morning, however, the police stopped the musical portion of the performance on account of the place not being licensed for music; so they had to do twenty-five minutes' patter, Miss Devon executing her dance to the accompaniment of her father's whistling at the side of the stage!

The most amusing experience Miss Devon remembers was at the Town Hall, Hounslow, with Mr. Arthur Aiston working with the trio. One night, at the conclusion of their performance, two beautiful bouquets were handed to Miss Devon and the other lady working with her amid a furor of applause from the audience. They had hardly reached their dressing-room, however, before someone came rushing round to say the leader had made a mistake; the bouquets were for the Sisters —, a local turn whose friends were in front. The floral tokens were, of course, given back, and in due course they were handed up in the second house to the ladies for whom they were intended.

Miss Devon has been working as a single turn for the past three years. All her songs are written and composed by her father, and are all character numbers. Among her latest studies are "The lady scout" and "The aeroplane girl," with which she is doing remarkably well.

MUSIC RECEIVED.

"Fleur-de-lis." This is a quaint little "Scherzo" prettily arranged for the piano by H. Du Chatelet. Published by Messrs. Enoch and Sons. Price 2s. net.

"Our golden dawn." An original waltz song, with some rather telling passages. Music by Gaston de Bréville; words by Tom Heffernan.

"The Mornington Organ Books." Original compositions by Myles B. Foster. Book I.: There twelve short pieces are especially arranged for the Positive organ, but are equally effective on a harmonium or ordinary pedal organ. They will be particularly useful as voluntaries to young players, as they are quite easy, but at the same time interesting and melodious, and, as would be expected from this writer, thoroughly artistic. Positive Organ Co., Ltd. Price 1s. net.

The Enoch Organ Library. "March from the Crown of India—Interlude," Edward Elgar. Arranged for the organ by Hugh Blair. These are excellent arrangements, and should be popular with organists as recital pieces. Messrs. Enoch and Sons.

THE STOLL SUBURBAN HOUSES.

The most attractive engagements at the outlying Stoll Empires next week are Vesta Tilley and the Three Rascals, Hackney; Marie Dainton, Molly Wells, the Jewels, "Charge," and the Finney Sisters, Shepherd's Bush; Arthur Prince and the Four Elles, Chiswick; and the Schwarz Bros. and Bert Gilbert, Wood Green.

The Universal Musical and Dramatic Directory for 1913 is the same extraordinary compendium of facts, figures, and information as in former years. The English section is very complete, and the thirty-eight illustrated biographies are interesting. The European, American, Southern America, Asiatic, African, and Oceanic sections are carefully compiled; and the advertisements alone would take a long time to read. M. E. Resacher may congratulate himself on an excellent annual.

Immediate Artistic Success of

THE TWO CAPTAINS

(ARTHUR WOOD and HENRY GREEN)

AT THE

LONDON COLISEUM.

SIX CURTAINS NIGHTLY.

A FEW PRESS OPINIONS.

Times. — "Found great favour with the audience."

Telegraph. — "Possess pleasant voices—received a cordial welcome."

Post. — "Green a very agreeable singer—Wood an exceptionally deft voice for the singing of facetious ditties."

Chronicle. — "Scored a great success."

Express. — "Met with general approval."

Financier. — "Charming manner vastly endeared them to the audience."

Standard. — "One of the most popular new turns."

Daily Graphic. — "They should go far in this new vocation."



(Photo by Hana.)

All business communications to 7a, VALE TERRACE, CHELSEA, S.W.

A FEW PRESS OPINIONS.

Globe. — "A decidedly amusing turn—much to taste of audience—great reception."

Evening Standard. — "There is no doubt they will be an immense success on the Halls."

Star. — "Cordial welcome from crowded house."

Evening News. — "The audience cheered and cheered and shouted 'Encore!' for over 5 minutes."

P.I.P. — "Wood & Green—the latter a capital tenor, the former a splendid pianist and a telling patter vocalist."

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(Continued from page 9.)

NORWICH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole M. Mr. Fred Morgan. This week: The repertoire company of Russia. Ballet. The company includes: Alexis Kozlov, Morosoff, Zaleski, Lauschmann, Miles, Lunina, Zaimani, Blanchetta, M. Teratian, and M. Mendeleitch. Matinees on Thursday and Saturday.

HIPPODROME.—P. Messrs. E. H. Bostock and P. W. Fitt. This week: The repertoire company of Russia. Ballet. The company includes: Alexis Kozlov, Morosoff, Zaleski, Lauschmann, Miles, Lunina, Zaimani, Blanchetta, M. Teratian, and M. Mendeleitch. Matinees on Thursday and Saturday.

PRINCE OF WALES PALACE.—M. Mr. R. A. Atkinson. This week: Edgar Curtis, Lilliputian wonder and pictures.

NORWICH ELECTRIC THEATRE.—G. M. Mr. G. F. Allen. This week: Hulbert, ventriloquist; De Lil, illusionist; and pictures.

NUNEATON.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—P. Mr. Leon Vint; R. M. Mr. Chisholm Taylor. This week: Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. The company includes: Mr. Wilson, Benke, Mr. Harry Vayne, Mr. Chas. T. Higgins, Mr. Austin Dean, Mr. Frank Cavanah, Mr. Lauri Moynahan, Mr. Bob Linton, Mr. Frank Masters, Mr. F. J. Lawson, Mr. Bert Denton, Mr. S. Wilson, Mr. D. J. Tomkins, Mr. Ralf Hillier, Mr. H. J. Sanderson, Mr. Carl Peters, Mr. Seth Thomas, Mr. Tim Preston, Chas. Wapka, Foy Caffein, Amos Halma, Miss Madie Hastings, Miss Nellie Hazel, and Miss Sadie Smith.

VINT'S ELECTRIC PICTUREDROMES.—L. Mr. Leon Vint; R. M. Mr. J. Kelly. This week: The Musical Jests; Fred Butt; Victor's Juveniles; and pictures.

OLDHAM.

ROYAL THEATRE.—P. Oldham Empire Theatre of Varieties Co., Ltd.; G. M. Mr. Ernest Dottridge; A. M. Mr. J. Hulme. This week (twice nightly): Messrs. Glenville and Omond present "An Indian Girl's Devotion." The company includes: Messrs. H. H. Glenville, Cecil A. Molton, Fred Omond, Percy H. Wood, Robert Mann, Chas. H. Gallier, Reginald T. Fox, Oscar Power, C. Croxton Jones, Wm. Emery, Harold Goddard, Alice Buckland, Elaine Vanburgh, Lillian Malvern, Margaret Hobart, T. M. Mr. Chas. H. Gallier. Matinee, Tuesday, at 2.15. Next week: "Diana of Dobson."

GRAND.—P. Oldham Empire Theatre of Varieties Co., Ltd.; G. M. Mr. Ernest Dottridge; A. M. Mr. H. Kilroy. This week (once nightly): The P. Benson Shakespearean Company presents: Monday, "The Taming of the Shrew"; Tuesday, "A Midsummer Night's Dream"; Wednesday, "Julius Caesar"; Thursday, "Macbeth"; Friday, "The Merry Wives of Windsor"; Saturday matinee, "The Merchant of Venice"; Saturday evening, "Hamlet." The company includes: F. R. Benson, P. Randle Ayrton, Rupert L. Corrick, John Maclean, Rosa Rogers, Nora Nicholson, Harry Caine, Ambrose Flower, James Maggean, Violet Cecil, William Calvert, Darby Foster, Frank Matthews, Marion Foreman, Murray Carrington, Reginald Goode, James Stanners, Ethel McDowall, Frank Cochrane, J. Moffat Johnston, Mark Turner, A. P. Nicholson, Eve Thibierge, Dorothy Green, T. M. Mr. W. H. Saverly. Matinee, Saturday, at 2.

PALACE.—P. Oldham Empire Theatre of Varieties Co., Ltd.; G. M. Mr. J. Platt; Licensee: Mr. Ernest Dottridge; A. M. Mr. Edmund Burrows; Mus. D. Mr. Harry O'Callaghan. This week (twice nightly): Hayman and Dottridge in "Cohens and Wonders." The company includes: Florence Edsall, vocalist; Arthur Croxon, singer; the Rangiers, comedy cyclists; Masques, in song and posing scenes; Doris and Frances, dancers; the Dandy Mascots; and pictures.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—P. The Doble Electric Theatres, Ltd.; G. M. Mr. W. D. Dobie. This week (twice nightly): The Mermades, aquatic marvels; the Three Lyndons, in song and dance; Geo. Lawrence, comedian; and pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—P. The Oldham Empire Theatre of Varieties Co., Ltd.; G. M. Mr. E. Dottridge; A. M. Mr. C. Gaston. This week (twice nightly): Chas. Gaston, vocalist; and pictures.

HIPPODROME.—P. The Oldham Empire Theatre of Varieties Co., Ltd.; G. M. Mr. E. Dottridge; A. M. Mr. F. Dixon. This week: Fred Dixon, comedian; and pictures.

POPULAR HALL.—M. Mr. J. W. Schofield. This week (twice nightly): Moyse and Moyse, comedians and dancers; and pictures.

OXFORD.

NEW THEATRE.—P. Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; M. D. Mr. G. T. Lucas. This week: The variety season. This week: The Excelsior Troupe of Cyclists; Mr. G. H. Elliott's Chocolate Coloured Coons; Preston Holmes, in his musical specialty; Billy Farrell, the comic comedian; Miss Nellie Deane, in her specialty dancing act; Zaranella, comedy acrobat and juggler; Bains and company, in "Humpty Dumpty"; and the Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Sole P. Mr. E. H. Bostock; A. M. Mr. Jack R. Bostock; M. D. Mr. Thomas Richardson. This week (twice nightly): Spessell Brothers and Mack, American comedians, in "A Quiet Little Summer"; the Jenkins Brothers, acrobatic comedians; Young and Evans, Hebrew comedians; the Five Yorkshire Lassies, singers and dancers; Frank Cass, comedian and vocalist; Pop Carson, male impersonator; the Johnstons, jugglers; and pictures.

WHITE'S PICTURE PALACE. QUEEN-STREET.—M. Mr. E. H. Bostock. This week: The Royal Quintette; Sisters Lyle; and pictures. Matinee, Saturday, at 3.

PENRITH.

ALHAMBRA.—P. & M. Messrs. W. Forrester & Sons; M. Mr. J. Blackburn. This week: C. H. Chatterton, the mystic; Sadie and Vone, in music, comedy, and dancing; and pictures.

PENTRE.

GRAND.—P. Mr. W. E. Willis; M. Mr. James Gann. This week (once nightly): Robert Macdonald and T. B. Young present "The Dolly Princess." Cast includes: Mr. Charles Midgley, Mr. Norman Bowers, Mr. Austin Green, Mr. Frank Dulla, Mr. Ernest Peirce, Mr. Bert Darrell, Mr. Huntley Gifford, Mr. Donald Gray, Mr. Francis Sawyer, Mr. John Bernard, Mr. Derick Knowles, Miss Margaret Carter, Miss Iris Beresford, Miss Tina Lincoln, Miss Phyllis Desmond, Miss May Lashbrook, Miss Dorothy Stafford, Miss Mina Goss, Miss Grace Freeman, Miss Marion Ridding, Miss Margaret Pitts, Miss Marjorie Elliott, Miss Marjorie Hynes, Miss Dorothy King, Miss Wallace Reville, T. M. Mr. A. Seymour.

PERTH.

PERTH THEATRE.—P. & M. Mr. J. H. Saville; R. M. Mr. Chas. Boulton. This week: Norman, instrumental specialist; the Plowdens, in their comedy act; James and Chester, musical comedy duo; Jolly Jimmy Walker, singing and dancing act at the piano; Dorothy Wynne, vocalist; Brandt and James, the rag-time comedy duo, in "The Ghost of the Whirligig"; and Irma Lorraine, assisted by Mlle. Marjale and Mlle. Leonie Bereny. Next week: Miss Ida Moleworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company in "Find the Woman" and "Ready Money."

PETERBOROUGH.

HIPPODROME.—L. Messrs. Hawkins and Frank; M. Mr. Fred Hawkins. This week: The Sisters Volka, comedy acrobats and expert dancers; Leslie Clements, comedian and banjoist; Arthur Blount, eccentric entertainer; Williams and Haves, the prima donna and tramp; James Bendon, whistling newboy; Gregory and Lydia, musical acrobatic comedians; and pictures.

PLYMOUTH.

GRAND THEATRE.—L. & M. Mr. J. Langdon Lee. This week (twice nightly): Mr. Derwent Hall Caine's company in "The Bondman." Cast includes: Mr. Arthur Lawrence, Mr. Herbert Hummer, Mr. Arthur Lawrence, Mr. Arthur Gilroy, Mr. Tom Clare, Mr. Herbert Willis, Mr. Walter Fox, Mr. Henry Arley, Mr. Ernest Brazg, Mr. Tom Fuller, Mr. Ernest Fredericks, Miss Beatrice Humber, Miss Constance Lamming. Next week: "The Major."

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—L. & M. Mr. Walter de Frece; R. M. Mr. G. F. Thompson. This week: Fred Karno presents "Wakes Week." Marie Wilton, comedienne; Eugene Damond,

violin virtuoso; Stylo Duo, jugglers; Leon Rogee; Sid Wood and Dorane Sisters; Harry Lawson, comedian; and Fred Karno's company in "Perkins, M.P."

PONTEFRAC.

ALEXANDRA.—L. Mr. George Tankard. This week: Mr. E. Heys presents "Hindle Wakes." Cast includes: Mr. William H. Dewhurst, Miss Beatrice Fielden, Miss Florence Trenchard, Mr. Charles Freeman, Miss Di Forbes, Mr. Philip B. Ridgeway, Mr. Frank Howard, Miss Hilda Kenyon, Miss Beryl Carter.

PONTYFRID.

NEW THEATRE.—P. Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; M. Mr. Charles Trenchard; A. M. Mr. William Trenchard. This week (twice nightly): Otto and Olga, comedy musical experts; the Dainty Dances, vocalists and dancers; and Rogers and Keeling, Hebrew comedians.

LARGE TOWN HALL.—P. Mr. John G. Wood; R. M. Mr. Mason. This week: Mr. Harry Collett, vocalist, and pictures.

WHITE PALACE.—P. The White Palace, Ltd.; R. M. Mr. Albert R. Josty. This week: Mue. Janet Garnett, and pictures.

PORTH.

PALACE THEATRE.—L. Mr. Will Smithson; M. Mr. J. W. Bynorth; Mus. D. Mr. Geo. Stephens. This week: Miss Ida Milais's company in "A Dark Secret." The company includes: Messrs. Sidney Renoff, Percy Beresford, Alf. Wilson, Henry Herne, Hartley Payne, J. E. Kendrick, Wallace Currock, Harry Watson, J. West, A. H. Hanson, Geo. May, Fred Montrose, C. F. Knight, and the Misses Amy Ellen, Maggie Stewart, Hilda Baynton, and Miss Ida Milais.

PORTSMOUTH.

ROYAL.—Licensee and M. Mr. J. W. Boughton; M. Mr. Arthur A. Horner. This week: The company with "The Maker Girl," with beautiful scenery, handsome dresses, and effects, is a great attraction. Miss Adela Crispin, as the demure Prudence, both sings and dances captivatingly; the fine voice of Miss Doris Dennis is heard to advantage as Princess Mathilde; and the natural humour of Miss Jeannie Armstrong contributes to her successful impersonation of Mme. Elton. A chic and vivacious Lily Phoebe is seen in Miss Hilda Stuart; Miss Ivy Harcourt giving a good idea of the stylish Parisian actress; Liane, Mr. William Greene sings and dances excellently, and adequately fills the rôle of Tony Chute; Mr. Frank H. Crimp sings well, and is a capital exponent of Captain Charters; the beskidding Quaker Jeremiah is humorously sustained by Mr. Fred Monti; and the unbending Nathaniel Pym is realised by Mr. John Duncan. Mr. Fred Hobbs does well as Prince Carlo; Mr. Henry Adnes provides much fun as M. Laroche; Mr. Geo. McCloskie being successful as M. Duhamel. As stage manager, The powerful chorus did credit to its conductor, Mr. Otto Marius.

KING'S.—Licensee and M. Mr. J. W. Boughton; A. M. Mr. Arthur R. Hollands. A diversified programme this week includes: Mike S. Whalen, who convulsed the audience with his extensive patter; Footers gives fine imitations of Caruso, Lauder, and an Apache; Harry Gribben and company create hearty laughter in a nautical farcical comedy, "Come Aboard, Sir"; Miss Francis McNulty's quick-change singing and dancing are cordially approved; the Great Weiland scores as a dexterous humorist; the Royal Kino Juveniles meet with appreciation; marvellous gymnasts and acrobats are the Five Jovers; and an up-to-date vaudeville turn are Mooney and Hobein; Tom Joy, paradoxical comedian, and Carl Muller are successful contributors.

PRINCE'S.—Licensee and M. Mr. J. W. Boughton; A. M. The "Old Home" is again being presented in Portsmouth by Mr. Evelyn O'Dell's company with every success. Miss Amy Dalby makes a charming heroine; Harry Shaw, comedian, in "Cohens and Wonders"; Arthur Croxon, singer; the Rangiers, comedy cyclists; Masques, in song and posing scenes; Doris and Frances, dancers; the Dandy Mascots; and pictures.

HIPPODROME.—M. D. Mr. W. de Frece; R. M. Mr. George Harris. The leading attraction this week is Fred Croxon and company in "Bangle's Luck," a first-rate production, containing abundant humour, good vocalism, and acting. In addition to Mr. Kitchen, Messrs. Chas. Baldwin, Victor Stevens, Miss Kate Foster, and Aggie Morris are largely responsible for the success. Some startling feats on cycles are performed by the Four Rhythms; Fred Russell, with his figure, Coster Joe, amuses with his ventriloquism; Bi-Bi, the Sousa of the bells, is a good turn; Irene May met with a cordial reception; some expert dancing is executed by the Dominos; Jack Sheridan and Gerrie Rex complete an excellent programme.

EMPIRE.—M. D. Captain E. H. Warren Wright; S. R. Mr. W. Pratt. Jordan and Harvey, Hebrew comedians, create continued mirth with their "murder" of English; Top Synnott, and company in the sketch entitled "A Girl in Every Port," keeps the audience in laughter; the Aerial Budds are loudly applauded for their rapid trapeze work; and Etie Howard proves herself a marvellous child mimic. Diana and Len Gray are expert ventriloquists; the dancing duo, the Four Rhythms; Fred Russell, with his figure, Coster Joe, amuses with his ventriloquism; Bi-Bi, the Sousa of the bells, is a good turn; Irene May met with a cordial reception; some expert dancing is executed by the Dominos; Jack Sheridan and Gerrie Rex complete an excellent programme.

THEATRE ROYAL.—M. Mr. J. Alban Newton. This week: Screen play, "Les Misérables." Next week (three nights and one matinee), Miss Julia Neilson and company in "Sweet Nell of Old Drury."

KING'S THEATRE.—P. Mr. E. H. Page. This week: Pictures.

HIPPODROME.—P. Messrs. William Henry Broadhead and Son; T. A. M. Mr. Frank E. Burdett; Mus. D. Mr. Robert Peel. This week (twice nightly): The Leslie Bros.; Fred Walmsley, Lancashire comedian; Gorman's Juveniles, vocalists; and pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—M. D. Mr. Edwin Bush; G. M. Mr. Alan W. Young; Mus. D. Mr. L. J. Dwyer. This week: The jolly Dolly Dye; Ella Shields, male impersonator; Wal Langtry, burlesque comedian; La Freya, in artistic vignettes; Griffiths and Carmen, the O'Mahonys; Newco and Sullo; Lily Long; Randolph Sutton; and pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—P. Messrs. William Henry Broadhead and Son; R. A. M. Mr. William J. Boyle; Mus. D. Mr. William Davidson. This week (twice nightly): Mr. Travis Green presents "Queen of the Redskins." The company includes: Jerrold Heather, Edith Leigh, T. B. Nugent, Frank Litchfield, Edward Maples, Lionel Moore, Sam Edwards, Arthur C. Russell, Clara Oakes, Christine Murray, Jessie Campbell, Amy Maitland, Hilda Shirley, T. M. Mr. Jerrold Heather.

RAMSGATE.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—L. & M. Mr. W. J. Attack. This week: "Kit Carson, the Blind Detective." Cast includes: Messrs. Alec Alexander, C. H. Longdon, E. Vivian, Hy. Deane, Victor Knight, Bernard Lidl, W. Leighton, Bert Hacking, and Stanley Wilton; Misses Jeannie Weston, Cathleen Cavanagh, Marie Longdon, and Gertrude Terry. Next week: "Dolly Dye."

KING'S THEATRE.—M. Mr. B. Crow. This week (twice nightly): J. A. Wilson and Performing Dogs; the Musical Keiths, xylophonists; and pictures.

RAVENSTALL.

GRAND THEATRE.—Sole P. & M. Mr. B. Pareezer; R. M. Mr. Archibald Pareezer. This week: "The Glad Eye," presented by Mr. Louis Meyer. The company includes: Mr. Sam Wilkinson, Mr. Frederick Meads, Mr. F. Olive Ross, Mr. Tom Tindall, Mr. Carl W. Lindsey, Mr. Reginald Maurice, Mr. Frank W. Ward, Mr. Ernest Gray, Miss Esther Whitehouse, Miss Rhoda Beresford, Miss Laurie Picketon, Miss Ethel Percival. Next week: "The Gay Gordons."

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Sole P. Mr. Albert Wilkin. This week: "The Draycotts (Eva and Tessie), in "Gems of Harmony"; Sandy and Carl, comedians; and pictures.

READING.

ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—P. & M. Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton. (Three nights and matinee, Wednesday at 2.30.) Miss Mabel Manning and company in "The Liars." Last three nights, "Mrs. Dane's Defence." Company includes: Messrs. M. Anderson, M. Sproston, C. R. Stone, A. Wiltshire, E. Sydney, M. Herbert, W. Kereston, W. Long, Misses Mabel Manning, Marion Boughton, Laura Hanson, and Kathleen Mortimer.

PALACE THEATRE.—R. M. Mr. Jesse Sparrow; Mus. D. Mr. Fred Leake. This week (twice nightly): Bros. Horne, in boxing sketch, entitled "Biter Bit"; Mary May and a Marionette, in vaudeville act; Harry Luck, eccentric comedian; the McConeys, vocal concert artists; and pictures.

THEATRE ROYAL.—P. The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; M. D. Mr. Wm. Robinson; G. M. Mr. Otto Culling; R. M. Mr. Norman M. Robinson. This week: Mr. Arthur Hardy's company in "The Speckled Band," by A. Conan Doyle. The company includes: Mr. E. Vassall-Vaughan, Miss Joan Marshall, Miss Agnes Marey, Mr. Maurice Drew, Mr. James E. Horstead, Mr. Geo. W. Barnes, Mr. Herbert Bradford, Mr. H. Franklin, Mr. King, Mr. Victor, Mr. H. E. Ainger, Master Fredk. Reinders, Mr. Gerard Rogers, Mr. A. Corney Grain. Next week: "The Collier's Lass."

PALACE THEATRE.—S. L. The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; M. D. Mr. Wm. Robinson; G. M. Mr. Otto Culling; R. M. Mr. Norman M. Robinson. This week: Mr. Arthur Hardy's company in "The Speckled Band," by A. Conan Doyle. The company includes: Mr. E. Vassall-Vaughan, Miss Joan Marshall, Miss Agnes Marey, Mr. Maurice Drew, Mr. James E. Horstead, Mr. Geo. W. Barnes, Mr. Herbert Bradford, Mr. H. Franklin, Mr. King, Mr. Victor, Mr. H. E. Ainger, Master Fredk. Reinders, Mr. Gerard Rogers, Mr. A. Corney Grain. Next week: "The Collier's Lass."

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—P. The Jackson Family, M. D. Mr. James Jackson, son. This week: Barton and Ashley in the comedy "Money Talks"; Archie Gene, comedian and raconteur; Eight Germania Girls, in vocal and drilling act; Albert Flahy, violinist; Niagara and Falls, eccentric comedy duo; Phil Kaufman, popular comic; Veronica Brady, musical comedy artist; and pictures.

PRINGLE'S EMPIRE.—S. L. Pringle's Picture Palace, Ltd.; Mus. D. Mr. Ralph Pringle; R. M. Mr. James Pringle. This week: Sisters Brenton, dainty comedienne and specialty dancers; Fraser Gordon, Scottish baritone; and pictures.

VINT'S NEW HIPPODROME AND THEATRE.—P. Mr. Leon Vint; G. M. Mr. Arthur Brodgen. This week: Mr. Arthur Hinton and Miss Leila Zillwood's company in "The King of the Gipsies." The company includes: Mr. Sydney H. Reynolds, Mr. S. Leslie Courtney, Mr. Chas. Hawthorn, Mr. Bertram Thomas, Mr. Albert Grenville, Mr. Jack Fisher, Mr. George Inglis, Mr. E. A. Peake, Mr. Cyril Jarvis, Mr. William Hughes, Mr. John Rudd, Miss Nina Harding, Miss May B. Douglas, Miss Violet Vivenne, and Miss Josephine Ditcham.

J.VINT'S ELECTRIC PALACE OF VARIETIES.—P. Mr. Leon Vint; G. M. Mr. Arthur Brodgen. This week: Silbon's Cats; Silly Billy Elliott; Morelli and Moore; and pictures.

RUNCORN.—P. The Runcorn Picture Palace, Ltd.; M. Mr. A. Smith. This week (twice nightly): Fields and Fields, in character songs; Cerano, juggler; Leonie Dixon, comedienne and dancer; Melt and Bray, comedians; and pictures.

HALL.—L. Messrs. Hamilton and Hughes. This week (twice nightly): Jack Audley, comedian; Lily Dance, comedienne and dancer; Sados, juggler; and pictures.

THEATRE ROYAL.—S. L. Messrs. J. and H. T. Wood; M. Mr. Terry Wood; Mus. D. Mr. E. Kerner. This week (twice nightly): Musicus, musical act; Diamond and Gold, comedy and tragedy act; and pictures.

SALFORD.—P. The Salford Picture Palace, Ltd.; M. Mr. E. B. Goulden; A. M. Mr. Harold Goulden. This week (once nightly): Mr. George N. Ballanger presents "The King of the Wild West." The company includes: Young Buffalo, Ernest Foster, Robert Chambers, Gus Rulhlin, B. Ratcliffe, Arthur C. Goff, Bob Delamere, Ali Delamere, E. L. Restoff, J. Reynolds, Albert Solloway, Ralph Brumles, C. Shade, W. Thomas, A. Payne, E. Brunt, Walter Hassell, Jack Williams, Philip Myatt, J. Bradshaw, J. Ponting, B. Ratcliffe, Howard Alwell, Lucy Burrows, Kitty Cluff, Caroline May Blaney, T. M. Mr. Frank Mulderr. Matinee, Wednesday, at 3.30.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—P. Messrs. Henry Broadhead and Son; R. A. M. Mr. Henry Hearn. This week (twice nightly): Mr. J. Newton Cowling presents "The Collier's Lass." The company includes: David Curtis, Stanley Radcliffe, Kenneth Jackson, William H. Melrose, Ben Bart, Johnson, E. L. Restoff, Fredk. Rood, George Lorenz, E. Solloway, Bella Moody, Adell Lidden, Annie Graham, Edith Ruland, T. M. Mr. Stanley Radcliffe. Matinee, Tuesday, at 2.30.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—M. D. Mr. W. Turner; G. M. Mr. Alan D. Dunbar; Mus. D. Mr. Sydney L. Hampton. This week: Pleasure, comedian; Junora and Partner, in acrobatic act; Chas. Grantly, erratic comedian; Mendel, the blind pianist; Queenie May, comedienne; Harry Chester, burlesque comedian; Legardo Bros., acrobats; the Seven Bramusas, with their brass band extravaganza, Music Afloat. Twice nightly and matinee, Tuesday and 2.30.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—M. D. Mr. W. Turner; G. M. Mr. Alan D. Dunbar. This week (twice nightly): Mr. Tom Sherlock, in illustrated songs; and pictures. Matinees, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, at 2.30.

ELECTRIC THEATRE.—P. The United Electric Theatres (London), Ltd.; M. Mr. Joe Bardsley. (Twice nightly, and matinees Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 2.30.) Miss Edna Grey, vocalist; and pictures.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—M. D. Mr. Albany Ward; R. M. Mr. Percy Maitland. This week: Miss Boden Butcher, soprano vocalist; Miss Helen Dwyer, in sand and rag-time dancing; Wilson Roberts' Australian Larikins, in bush and vocal comedy act.

SHEFFIELD.—Sole P. & M. Mr. B. Pareezer; R. M. Mr. Percy Maitland. This week: Miss Boden Butcher, soprano vocalist; Miss Helen Dwyer, in sand and rag-time dancing; Wilson Roberts' Australian Larikins, in bush and vocal comedy act.

HIPPODROME.—Sole L. Mr. B. Pareezer; R. M. Mr. Percy Maitland. This week: Miss Boden Butcher, soprano vocalist; Miss Helen Dwyer, in sand and rag-time dancing; Wilson Roberts' Australian Larikins, in bush and vocal comedy act.

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of the tempter and the tempted is worked out. Pathos and humour are sandwiched carefully, and the adventures of Albert Higgs as an amateur detective are very amusing. Mr. Juan D'Alberti does not mind matters as Duncan Wyde, who is undoubtedly a fair sounder. A contrast beloved by melodrama audiences is Reginald Varley, a character sympathetically acted by Mr. Jesse Ablett. Excellent sketches are submitted by Mr. Aubrey Norton as Amos Sharpe, Mr. Maurice Clifton as Dr. Chevalier, Mr. Anthony Forde as Jacobs, and Mr. Bert M. Chaffer as Dawkins. Mr. Dick Seddon as Albert and Miss Ada Gower as Madeline cause much hilarity. Mr. F. Marriott Watson acts with his accustomed skill and dramatic grip as the beasty German Jew, Jacob Jacobs, Miss Florence E. Florence appears with great success in the effective character of "La Jolie Diable." Miss Fay Garnett Vayne is a graceful representative of a young woman who works is done by Miss P. Rusby as Betty. Mr. Eric Mortimer as Augustus, Mr. J. Raymond as Raymond, and Mr. Richard Newman as the Inspector of Police. Next week: "A Wife for a Day."

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—M. D. Mr. W. D. Forsdike; A. M. & T. M. G. W. Ramsay. "The Millionaire's Girl," one of the popular domestic plays from the prolific pen of the talented Mrs. Morton Powell, is again delighting lovers of a dramatic story told in plain English, and earnestly acted by a loyal company under the direction of the authoress. Miss Pattie Hasings won the sympathies of a big audience on Monday, and the evening's performance was a success. The company includes: Miss Lee, and other well-played characters were: Miss Florence Hamilton's Liz Lee, Miss Emily Huby's Granny Lee, Miss Irene Carrington's Muriel Marsh, Miss Lizzie Lennan's Tilly, Miss Mabel Roselle's Mary Ellen, Mr. Alfred Stretton's Dr. Leach, Mr. Fred Freeman's Laurence Laurence, Mr. A. Hyber's Mr. Marsh, Mr. Richard Webb's Sam Swaddle, Mr. W. Beecher's Turnbull, Mr. C. H. Locke's Dr. Bruce Claud, Mr. E. R. Shrewd's Gabriel Grunt, Mr. A. Sangar's Dick Dale, Master Blaise's Sammy, Mr. P. Clay's P. Flood, Miss Annie May's Betty Bob, Miss Lizzie Lander's Sally Spindle, and Miss Marion Massey's Wardens Crooke. The drama was well staged. Next week: "The Mormon and the Maid."

EMPIRE PALACE.—P. The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; M. D. Mr. Frank Allen; A. M. Mr. Stewart. This week: The company presents "The Evolution of Rag-time," with music by Austin Hargun and special scenery and effects illustrating life on the Mississippi. The finale reveals, fun in a New York cabaret. The company includes: Miss Lee, and other well-played characters were: Miss Florence Hamilton's Liz Lee, Miss Emily Huby's Granny Lee, Miss Irene Carrington's Muriel Marsh, Miss Lizzie Lennan's Tilly, Miss Mabel Roselle's Mary Ellen, Mr. Alfred Stretton's Dr.

Helene Moore, Miss Gladys Ashton, T. M., Mr. J. R. La Fane, Matinee, Saturday, at 2.30. Next week: The Moody-Manners Company.

EMPIRE—P. Moss, Empires, Ltd., M. D., Mr. Frank Allen; A. M., Mr. Geo. H. Richardson—This week (twice nightly): "Ernie Mayne"; Gerald Griffin and company in "Other People's Money"; Arthur Melrose, comedian and singer; Haig and Novel, comedy acrobats; Edwin Lawrence in new burlesques, assisted by Jarvis; Betty Boden, comedienne; Aerial Smiths, trapeze workers; James Fawn; pictures.

TORQUAY.

PAVILION—P. The Torquay Town Council; M. Mr. Austin M. Wilshe—This week: The Municipal Orchestra, under Mr. Basil Hindenberg, augmented by Mr. Charles Capper (siffler) and Miss Roma Tremaine (contralto).

ELECTRIC THEATRE—M. A. Powell—This week: Mr. Charles Kay and Miss Lola Trist in musical comedy sketch; and pictures.

TREHERBERT.

PALACE—M. D., Mr. C. W. Poole; R. M., Mr. W. A. Totten—This week (twice nightly): "Tom Owen," Welsh comedian; Elsie Pyne, in "Late," the Vagabond, bagpuncher; and pictures. Matinee, Tuesday, at 11 a.m.; Saturday, at 3 p.m.

WAKEFIELD.

RA HOUSE—P. Sherwood and Co.—This week (on Wednesday and Thursday): The comedy, "The Duke of Killarney," will be performed by local amateurs in aid of the Wakefield Work-shops for the Blind.

EMPIRE—This week (twice nightly): Mr. Arthur Hinton and Miss Leila Willwood's company in "His Indian Wife." Cast includes: Mr. Leonard Williams, Mr. Gilson Brooke, Mr. William J. Reed, Mr. Gerald Byrne, Mr. Harry Harrell, Mr. Tod Squires, Master Charles Booth, Mr. Arden Barne, Mr. H. C. Nerney, Mr. Lionel Wicks, Mr. Charles Leonard, Miss Nellie Wilson, Miss Billie Garth, Miss Laura Wright, Miss May Grayce, Miss Irene Atkinson, T. M., Mr. G. Moreton, Williams.

HIPPODROME—L. Mr. Sydney Telford; A. M., Mr. Harry Heath—This week (twice nightly): Ally Benson, dame comedienne; Felix and Miss Fisher, in gymnastic and droll comedy act; and pictures. Matinee, Saturday, at 2.45.

GRAND ELECTRIC THEATRE—P. M., Mr. H. Donnell—This week (twice nightly): Dudley Dale and Boyce, in vocal and dancing act; Gray and White, patter comedians; and pictures. Matinees, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, at 3.

WATFORD.

PALACE THEATRE—G. M., Mr. Lionel G. Holding—This week: Mr. Ernest E. Norris presents "The Walls of Jericho." Cast includes: Mr. Ernest E. Norris, Miss Ray Parry, Mr. Viola March, Miss Lily O'Donoghue, Mr. Edwin Wheeler, Mr. Harold Greaves, and Mr. Charles Melling.

WATFORD-DEARNE.

EMPIRE PALACE—P. West Riding Electric Theatres, Ltd.—This week (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday): Risto Brothers, comedy acrobats; Dan Taylor, comedian; and pictures. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday: Six Boston Girls, in vocal scene; Hot and Tot, in patter act; Charles Cassell, singer; and pictures. Matinees, Wednesday, 10.30 a.m., and Saturday, 2.30.

WELLINGBOURGH.

PALACE—G. M., Mr. F. J. Hewitt; R. M., Mr. Joseph Baron—This week (once nightly): The Wellingborough Amateur Operatic Society present "The Mikado." Cast includes: Mr. C. H. Oxlund, Mr. F. E. Placke, Mr. R. F. James, Mr. Sidney Cook, Mr. A. B. Gent, Mrs. Geoffrey Woolston, Miss Phyllis Fisher, Miss C. M. Goosey, Miss I. M. J. Robertson.

WEST BROMWICH.

THEATRE ROYAL—L. & M., Mr. R. Nightingale and Mr. Montague Beaudry; Licensee, Mr. R. Nightingale; G. M., Mr. Stanley S. Gordon—This week (twice nightly): Mr. Montague Beaudry presents "The Prodigal Son." Cast includes: Mr. Stanley S. Gordon, Mr. Henry Parr, Mr. Collin P. Heather, Mr. Tom Arkinstall, Mr. Billy Sherlock, Mr. Sidney Clewlow, Mr. Rass Challis, Miss Kate Froude, Miss Gertrude Vickers, Miss Gladys Clewlow, Miss Nina Vaughan, T. M., Mr. Stanley S. Gordon.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.

GRAND THEATRE—L. & M., Mr. Stanley Rogers; A. M., Mr. R. Benson Shakespearean company present: Monday, "If I Were King"; Tuesday, "The Merchant of Venice"; Wednesday, "If I Were King"; Thursday, "Othello"; Friday, "The Comedy of Errors," preceded by "Comus"; Saturday, matinee, "Macbeth"; Sunday evening, "Hamlet." The company includes: Charles Warburton, John Cairns, Duncan Yarrow, Andrew Leigh, Basil Osborne, Horace Braham, E. Pardoe Woodman, Basil Rathbone, Edmund Sully, S. B. Bickmore, Frank Freeman, P. Woodcock Denman, E. L. Libburn, Brunhild Marley, Lillian Laurence, Evelyn M. Lane, David Dwyer, Talbot Daniel, Madge K. Yardley, Henry Herbert, and Gladys Vanderveer, T. M., Mr. W. H. Savery.

EMPIRE—M. D., Mr. Richard Thornton; M., Mr. S. Thornton Smurthwaite—This week: "Gipsy Love." The company includes: Mr. Peter A. Galloway, Mr. Norman Greene, Mr. Arthur Brooker, Mr. R. B. Field, Mr. J. E. Alfred Henry, Mr. Arthur A. Jenner, Mr. Cameron Carr, Mr. Lionel Victor, Miss Mary Ridley, Miss Connie St. Clair, Miss Violet Vivian, Miss Mabel Hirst, Miss Maudie Andrews, Miss Ethel Erskine, Dances by Miss Renee Reel and Mr. Alfred H. Maffitt, G. M., (for Mr. George Edwards), Mr. Percy J. Purdy.

PALACE—L. & M., Mr. W. G. Armstrong; M., Mr. W. Capper; Mus. D., Mr. S. Grahame—This week: Abel and Wyn, in comedy sketch; Florence Moody, character vocalist; Stirling, the humannikin; and pictures.

KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE—M., Mr. W. Payne—This week: Mr. Ulrick Burke's company in "At Break of Day." The cast includes: Mr. T. Costello Williams, Mr. John Sergeant, Mr. J. H. Darley, Mr. Bert Dench, Mr. Charles Langton, Mr. Herbert Bryanston, Mr. Arthur Marple, Mr. Sidney Grover, Mr. Basil May, Mr. S. L. Tyneson, Miss Julie St. George, Miss Lillian Maude-Howe, Miss Bessie Osborne, Miss Maggie Lindsey, and Miss Agnes Jeamond.

GRAND PIER PAVILION—M., Mr. John H. Stevenson—This week: Herr Julian Kandt and his Band, assisted by Miss Isabel Radford; and pictures.

PALACE OF VARIETIES—P. Mr. Albany Ward; M., Mr. Fred Adderley—This week: The Piquays, acrobats; Grice and Allen, comedians and dancers; and pictures.

WEST STANLEY.

THEATRE ROYAL—P. The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd., M. D., Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Mus. D., Mr. J. F. Macdonald—This week (once nightly): Leonard and French's company in "The Girl of My Heart." The company includes: Mr. Herbert Leonard, Mr. George Arthur, Mr. Arthur Maskell, Mr. Arthur Pringle, Mr. C. Claxton-Turner, Mr. Fred Vaughan, Mr. Edward Curtis, Mr. J. E. McCann, Mr. David Allen, Mr. Charles Staff, Mr. Walter Clement, Mr. Tom Waller, Mr. George Landry, Mr. J. McGuffie, Mr. Will Webb, Miss Laura Dyson, Miss Flo Davis, Miss Doris L. Fokett, Miss Elsie Conquest, Miss Margaret Hope, Mr. Walter Graves, and Mr. G. Hastings Walton. T. M., Mr. Fred Vaughan.

ELITE PICTURE PALACE—This week (twice nightly): Harvard Sextette, in mirth and melody; the Hilma King Trio, rag-timers; Li-Chang-Hi, magician; and pictures.

ALBERT HALL—P. Messrs. Randall Williams; R. M., Mr. G. E. Routledge—This week (twice nightly): Newman and Knight, jugglers; and pictures. Matinee, Saturday, 2.30.

WHITEHAVEN.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL—P. Mr. Stanley Rogers; A. M., Mr. Will Gibson; C., Mr. Fred Merryman—This week: The Gerbola Trio, acrobats; Wee Georgie Harris, boy comedian; Merry-se, balancer and musical entertainer; and pictures.

PICTURE PALACE—M., Mr. Victor Braunford; A. M., Mr. J. T. Hurst—This week: Smit and Smit, in bar act; the Bartholomew Girls, vocalists and dancers; and pictures.

ST. JAMES' ELECTRIC THEATRE—S., Mr. Victor Halliwell—This week: Hughie Oglivie, Scotch comedian; Len Harris, whistler and dan-

cer; Ella Gibb, double-voiced vocalist; and pictures.

ROYAL STANDARD—P., Mr. Tom Dyson—This week: Rosie Deane, male impersonator; Ted Whiteley, descriptive vocalist; Kromer, ventriloquist; and pictures.

WHITLEY BAY.

SPANISH CITY—P. The Whitley Pleasure Gardens Co., Ltd., G. M., Mr. J. D. Johnson—This week: Will Tinsington presents "The Pop-pies," in their humorous entertainment. The company consists of: Miss Catherine Craig, comedienne; Miss Marion Ruth, contralto; Mr. Leonard Van Meutz, baritone; Mr. Leonard Edwards, comedian; Mr. Will R. Edwards, piano humorist; and Mr. Will Tinsington, humorist and mimic.

KURSAAL—P., Messrs. Ambro and Houghton; R. M., Mr. George Houghton; A. M., Mr. Richard Lyons—This week: Ambro and Houghton's concert party, The Debonairs. The company includes: Mr. George Houghton, Mr. Walter Anner, comedian; Mr. Harry Taylor, accompanist and solo pianist; Mr. Charles Hargreaves, baritone; Mr. Harry Bright, light comedian; Mr. Louis Holt, humorist at the piano; Miss Maud Gardner, contralto comedienne; and Miss Lillian du Venny, soprano comedienne.

EMPIRE—P., Mr. Robt. Scott; M., Mr. G. T. Turnbull; Mus. D., Mr. H. J. Mansfield—This week: Arthur Hopper, baritone; and pictures.

WIDNES.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL—L., Messrs. Hamilton and Hughes—This week (twice nightly): Abomah, rag-time giants; Rose Cabana, comedienne and dancer; John Lord, musical collier; the Two Dollars, in "The Statue and the Maid"; and pictures.

WIGAN.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE—P. & M., The Wigan Entertainment Co., Ltd.—This week (once nightly): Mr. George Edwards' company in "The Dollar Princess" and "The Merry Widow." The company includes: Mr. H. Sinclair Cotter, Mr. H. Ripley Evans, Mr. Tom Redmond, Mr. William Allison, Mr. Harry Scott, Mr. C. Ifor Seyler, Mr. Ernest Climpson, Mr. Clifton Hamilton, Mr. Fred Maguire, Miss Carda Walker, Miss Florence Ivy, Miss Marie Kappey, Miss Peggy Quainton, Miss Ethel Craske, Miss Madge Stewart, Miss Kathleen Storr, Miss Mae Jackson, Miss Freda Large, Miss Kathleen Rae, Miss Lucie Donati, and Miss Effie Mann, Madge, Wednesday, 2.30. Next week: Alexander Marsh and Co.

HIPPODROME—P. & M., The Wigan Entertainment Co., Ltd.; Mus. D., Mr. G. Robertson—This week (twice nightly): Miss Dorothy Ward, principal boy; Shaun Glenville, comedian; Percy Farrington, singing collier; Wee Josie, comedienne and dancer; Ernest Dottridge presents "The New Detective"; Kenneth and Kane, in "Oh-Oh-Oh"; James Rallis, in monkey sketch; Miss Rose Sarella and Six Gentlemen; and pictures. Matinee, Monday, 2.30.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

THEATRE ROYAL—G. M., Mr. F. C. Kimberley; Mus. D., Mr. H. Bradley—This week: Messrs. Graham Wood and Archie Helsby present "Send Him Victories." The company includes: William Ludwig, James Archer, Archie Healey, Tom Evans, Graham Woods, Roland A. Bridge, Lionel Carteret, Albert Mellitt, Freddie Edwards, Florence Attack, Madge Palmer, Marie Robson.

EMPIRE—Sole L., Mr. Walter de Frece; M., Mr. H. Kettunen; Mus. D., Mr. Theobald Sheffield—This week (twice nightly): Bransby Williams, character actor; Two Vestas, vocalists and dancers; Hymar and Melford, dancers; Josephine Langley, ventriloquist; Bros. Leo, comedians; Pedro and Pescador, equilibrist and dog; Arnold Richardson presents "Ferdie's Me-in-law"; pictures.

WORCESTER.

THEATRE ROYAL—L. & M., Mr. Arthur Carlton—This week (twice nightly): "The Colombo Girl." Cast includes: Mr. Reginald Adair, Mr. Hugh Murray, Mr. Finn Doyle, Mr. Tom H. Solly, Mr. Charles Fother, Miss Gertrude de Lacy, Miss Nellie Harcourt, and Miss Dorothy Desmond.

WORDSWORTH.

OLYMPIA THEATRE—L., Mr. B. Kennedy; M., Mr. Anthony Bayley—This week: The Two Junes, dancers; Minnie Pike, soprano vocalist; and pictures.

WORKSOP.

KING'S THEATRE—L., Messrs. Cecil Clayton and Frank M. Thorne; R. M., Mr. Frank M. Thorne—Last three nights of the week: Messrs. F. Marriott Watson and Jas. Usher's "The Face at the Window" company. The company includes: Messrs. Roy Portescue, Gilbert Haas, Jas. Weston, Harrison Ainsworth, Vivian R. Carlton, Fred. Monckton, Arthur Collins, F. H. Portescue, Arthur Helier, Wm. Yates, Robt. Hamilton, and W. Helier, Misses Maud Grayson, Phoebe Grey, Laia Sheldon, and Constance Glenabyn.

YORK.

THEATRE ROYAL—L. & M., Mr. Percy Hutchinson; R. M., Mr. E. W. S. Mervin; Mus. D., Mr. J. Pelzer—This week (once nightly): Mr. Robert Burnett and company in "The Bear Leaders." T. M., Mr. Allan Harris. The company includes: Mr. Allan Harris, Mr. W. S. Butt, Mr. Ian O. Will, Mr. George Goodwin, Mr. Robert Burnett, Mr. Charles Barber, Mr. Robert Hare, Mr. P. Smythe, Mr. J. Mitchell, Miss Ethel Russell, Miss Janet Gillette, Miss Frances White, Miss Ethel Russell, Miss Nancy Imlach, Miss Rene Vivian, and Miss Ormonde Wynne. Matinee, Saturday, 2. Next week, "Jelly."

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE—M. D., Mr. William Peacock; A. M., Mr. Sidney Brooke; Mus. D., Mr. Harry Best; Mus. D., Mr. F. Kell—This week (twice nightly): Betty Barclay and a Baritone; Rokby, juggler; Harold Baker, comedian; Gladys Huxley, comedienne; Samaroo and Miss Sonia, Russian peasants; the Biltons, in comedy and vocalism; Tatten Hall, comedian, assisted by Bertie White and Nora Melton; pictures. Next week: The Great Rag Six.

One hundred members of the Veterans' Club witnessed a performance at the New Middlesex of "The Red Coat," a stirring drama of the days of George III., on Monday evening, and a further one hundred attended on Tuesday.

Miss Violet Russell is troubled about the loss of her pet fox terrier, "Tribby." The dog was well known to many professionals, and was lost outside 17, Frederick-crescent, Brixton, at six o'clock on Monday last. "Tribby" has a black patch over her right eye, and a red bow on her collar.

Mr. H. G. Thompson, the popular lessee and manager of the New Pavilion, Alexandra Palace, opened his season last week with an excellent party of entertainers, the Spick and Spans. R. Stratton Wells, the principal of the Spick and Spans, is a capital comedienne; Miss Lily Marden, a fine contralto, sang many good songs, which were greatly appreciated; Mr. Bert Lennard, light comedian, has a breezy style, and was particularly enjoyable in duets with Miss Mollie Revan, a dainty soprano. Mr. Norman Dale possesses a good baritone voice, and Mr. Fred Temple's songs were also enjoyable. Mr. A. Whitley, accompanist, also proved himself a clever entertainer at the piano. Mr. Fred Spencer's Impossibles are the attraction this week.

At Brighton County Court on the 21st, Judge Mackerness gave a decision of importance in reference to orchestral engagements. The Corporation sued Mr. Horace Shackleton, a musician, employed at the Torquay Pavilion, to recover £10 14s. for breach of contract as a member of the Brighton Municipal Orchestra. Defendant signed an engagement for a year, one of the conditions being that in the event of his leaving before the term had expired he would forfeit a month's salary. The facts were admitted, and the case was argued entirely upon the validity of the forfeiture clause. His Honour held that the condition which defendant had accepted was reasonable in the nature of the business, as it was necessary for the Corporation to guard against members of the orchestra leaving at a moment's notice. He made an order for the payment of the amount at the rate of 10s. per month.

THE TWO CAPTAINS.

AT THE LONDON COLISEUM.

By the bay window of a St. James's Club sat three men, engaged in earnest conversation. All three had stood within "The Fighting Line"—two with their swords, and the third with his pen. The engrossing topic of "Red Tape" was occupying their attention. The complexities attached to this absorbing subject proving so abstruse, and the breadth, strength, and length of the "product" as difficult of determination as the Differential Calculus, one of the trio (composed of Captain Arthur Wood, son of General Sir Evelyn Wood, Captain Green, D.S.O., and an "Era" representative) protestingly remarked:

"Well, shall we cut through the swathes which at present envelop us, now, or we shall become further fearfully enmeshed in its octopus-like coils—and, perchance, be compelled to invoke the assistance of the Club waiter to extricate us?"

"It would certainly appear profitless to further labour the point," remarked the scribe, and Captain Green being entirely in accord with this conjoint opinion, Captain Wood cheerily remarked—

"Well, Sir Knight of the Pen, as I observe your weapon poised menacingly over the virgin paper, I conclude this strategic operation indicates that your mind is occupied with some 'fell purpose' intent—So, Comrade, 'en garde!'"

The man with the pen lowered his "weapon." "Prithce, good sir, this is a perfectly peaceful encounter. Moreover, what affrighting odds—All I require is that—dubbing not your courage—you should, for the nonce, be Passive Resisters."

"We capitulate—under certain reservations," said Captain Green. "We have, in connection



(Photo by Hanna.)

CAPTAIN ARTHUR WOOD, AND
CAPTAIN HENRY GREEN, D.S.O.

with our new activities, been called 'Captains Courageous.' Well, that is, we think, quite a good designation, and we wish to tender to the prominent newspaper who accorded it our sincere appreciation of the compliment."

"Rather," said Captain Wood; "and I may assure you that all the courage we can collect is required to receive, in the orthodox manner, the highly flattering receptions accorded to us each evening by the generous audiences at the London Coliseum."

"I am sure our readers would be interested to learn something concerning the reasons which induced you and your confere to make an excursion into this particular activity in life," remarked the journalist.

"Now, Green, old chap, fire away"—chaffed his colleague.

"As perhaps you may be aware," commenced Captain Green, "Wood and I have been lifelong comrades. We were educated together at school and at Sandhurst. We both held Commissions in the Scottish Rifles, and have seen active service; and, may I say, we have each gained four war medals. Captain Wood took part in the South African War, the Nile Expedition, and in a campaign on the North-West Frontier of India; while I served in Sierra Leone and South Africa, and was twice mentioned in despatches. I soon afterwards received my D.S.O."

"Whilst stationed at Aldershot, my friend and I often took part in private theatricals. Our friends were good enough to speak very flatteringly of our efforts; and so—having retired momentarily from the Army—we decided to go in for Music-hall work, and to take it up thoroughly. We believe there is a good living in it, and, if successful, greater financial rewards than in most other professions—certainly more than in soldiering."

"We were not, however, wholly inclined to regard Aldershot's flattering verdict on our amateur work as conclusive."

"So I got leave," interpolated Captain Wood, "and, under another name, joined Sir Herbert Tree's sketch at the Palace—The Man Who Was."

"My success there, and afterwards at private 'At Home' work, convinced me that there was a good chance for me on the halls; and, finding Captain Green as keen as I was on the 'show' business (he had been singing in Grand Opera for Hammerstein in London and in Italy and Malta) we quickly decided to work up a little musical sketch."

"We made our first professional appearance at the Aldershot Hippodrome—as well, may it be said, a great 'hit' there. This was a very encouraging commencement. And now our appearance at the London Coliseum is setting the seal of contentment upon our activities. We are exceedingly gratified at the immense success (may not, please, an average of six curtains nightly be regarded as success?) we are achieving at the Coliseum; and Captain Green and myself would be delighted if you would be so good as to express, in the columns of your widely read Journal, our sincere thanks to the public for the generous measure of recognition which they have been so kind as to accord our efforts. We would also desire to express our sincere appreciation of the consideration and courtesy extended to us by the Coliseum Management, the kindness of the staff, and the esprit de corps of our fellow artists."

"I am also, I may add, playing a small part in 'The Happy Island' at His Majesty's; and so I do not find I have much leisure time," laughed Captain Wood.

"Oh, perhaps it may be mentioned," said Captain Green, "that we both feel that when our present English contracts have expired, we should much like to enjoy the experience of paying a professional visit to our American cousins."

A criticism of the entertainment afforded by Captain Wood and Captain Green is contained elsewhere in this issue.

"VILLIKINS AND HIS DINAH."

BY S. J. ADAIR FITZGERALD.

At the Old Grecian Saloon, which was a cut between rather before, the Old Sing-Song, with all the predominating suggestions of this once popular kind of entertainment and the music hall, as already perpended, there appeared a comic and buffo singer, who was destined to be a shooting star—a star that shot rapidly and fell all too soon. That was the great Little Robson, about whom so many journalists and theatrical authorities have written. He was practically for many years the king of comedians at the Olympic and elsewhere, until he died, at the early age of forty-three, when he was at the zenith of his fame. The story of his life has been written many times, but the true history of "Villikins and his Dinah," has rarely been properly set forth, and so I give it as succinctly as possible. Fred. Robson introduced this extraordinary composition into F. H. Mayhew's peculiar farce, called "The Wandering Minstrel," at the Olympic Theatre in 1864, when the Variety Theatre was just beginning to get into the channel that was to come many years later. As we shall see, Robson was one of the first of our comic singers, and perhaps one of the most eccentric. It was after having sung "Villikins and his Dinah" scores of times simply as a turn in the miscellaneous concerts that used to take place in one of the pavilions in the grounds, when the plays were ended in the theatre.

The nearness of tragedy to farce was never better exemplified than in this curious production—"Villikins and his Dinah." Speculations as to the author's age were long rife, for on neither of the half dozen or so editions of the song published does the name of the writer or the composer appear. Although the song was sung in London as early as 1839, and subsequently in the provinces, it was about five years later that Robson included it in his repertoire. It soon became the popular song of the day, and was paid for and published by Davidson in his "Musical Treasury."

In Davidson's edition (about 1854) the title-page has a drawing of Robson as Jim Baggs (in Henry Mayhew's "Wandering Minstrel"), and in a facsimile of his handwriting it is stated that "this is the genuine song, and no mistake." Jim Baggs—X—his name. Apparently the publisher could not make up his mind what to call the song, for on the outside it is printed "Villikins and his Dinah," while inside it is called "The celebrated antediluvian and dolefully pathetic legend of Willikend and his Dinah," with the melancholy and uncomfortable fate of 'ye dismal parients,' sung by Mr. F. Robson at the Royal Olympic Theatre, and by Mr. J. L. Toole (comedian), at the Theatres Royal, Cork, Dublin, and Edinburgh, with immense success; also at the various Literary Institutions in London, in his popular entertainment of 'Sayings and Doings.'

Pirates were busy in those days, as in our own, and quite a number of imitations appeared. Many ascribed the authorship to Robson himself, so identified at the metropolitan theatres did he become with the ditty—but this was an error. Later in the year 1854—or perhaps early in 1855—a most elaborately got-up pamphlet was issued, giving the text only, with pictures by George Thomson, from the house of Tallant and Allen. The legend is copiously annotated in a style of humour not likely to appeal to present-day readers. In the preface these lines appear: "We had intended to write a minute and circumstantial account of the romantic circumstances under which Fred. Robson became possessed of this legend, and how that, owing to the indefatigable exertions of that highest of low comedians, and most energetic of gentlemen, it was rescued from oblivion—a service for which he merits the gratitude of his race and our thanks, which we take the liberty of tendering."

Robson first played at the Olympic about Easter, 1853, in "Catching An Heiress," but neither he nor the piece caught on. In fact, he made no great impression in Wych Street until July 4, when he electrified the town as Shylcock in Talford's burlesque of "The Merchant of Venice." Then in the following October he sang "Villikins." The author of "Villikins," by the way, I am able to prove was E. L. Blanchard, who for a long series of years was one of the dramatic critics of, and provided old Drury Lane with, over thirty consecutive annual pantomimes. Blanchard perished "Villikins" in 1839, when he was just about twenty years old, for some private theatricals, which were given at Rodney House, Old Kent-road. There was on this occasion produced a pantomime entitled "The Old Woman and Her Three Sons; or, Harlequin and the Wizard of Wokey Hall." E. L. Blanchard played the heroine, Florida (afterwards Columbine), and was one of the managers. Before the pantomime Henry Mayhew's farce, "The Wandering Minstrel," strangely enough, was acted, and at this amateur performance was sung, "for the first time on any stage, 'Villikins and his Dinah,' by Mr. James Howe," who is described as "an accomplished musician," who was Blanchard's right-hand man in the music department. Now, as E. L. B. says in his "Reminiscences" that Mr. Howe composed all the original music for these entertainments (they gave them two years running), in all probability he wrote the music of this quaint and extraordinary production as well.

At the Olympic, by the way, the melody was arranged and orchestrated by John Barnard. In considering the humour of the song it should be remembered that when it was most in demand there were no Board schools, and the celebrated "March of Intellect" craze had only just set in, and that the ignorance of the lower and lower middle classes was truly appalling. People did not seem to set much store by learning or education, and were lamentably lacking in the accurate use of their own language. Therefore it is not to be wondered at that mispronunciation—the curious habit of interchanging the V's and the W's, accompanied by outrageous puns—was the staple stock of the cheap humorist. A specimen verse or two will fully bear out this tolerably obvious contention. The first verse, after the symphony has been played "con gusto" and rather "intorallando," runs:—

It is of a rich merchant I am going for to tell,
Who had for a daughter an unknown nice young gal;

Her name it was Dinah, just sixteen years old,
With a very large fortune in silver and gold.

Singing Torallai, torallai, torallai, &c.

The patter is formed after this fashion:—This "chorus" (which I sing by myself) is sung four times over. The merchant in the next verse hints at a husband (husi-band) for his daughter, and in the third verse his undutiful child accuses the proposed young man, being in love with Villikins. Now for the fourth verse—

Spoken: Now this here is what the paternal priest said agin to the daughter, and tells you what the parricidal papa parenthetically and parrigorically pronounced, with all the parabolical particulars.

Go, go, boldest daughter, the parient, he cried,
If you don't feel inclined to be this here young man's bride.

(Spoken confidentially: He was a merchant pie-man from Abyssinia and exported baked taters to Timbuctoo for the Hotentots.)

"I'll give your large fortin to the nearest of kin,
And you shan't reap the benefit, not of one single pin."

Verse five begins with more "spoken" matter.

"Now this is the most melancholy part of it,
And shows what the progeny was drew to in

consquence of the mangled obstopolosness and ferocity of the inconsiderable parient:—

Now as Villikins was a-valliking the gardin all round,
He spied his dear Dinah laying dead on the ground,
With a cup of cold pison all down by her side,
And a billet-doux, which said as how 'twas by pison she died.

Spoken: The label was marked British brandy, mournful and desponding chorus of the sympathising sparrows, the sad and smoke-dried spectators of this malignant and misanthropic case of unfortunate seveicide.

As to Villikins, he then swallows the rest of the poison, and after the moral, exhorting young people to "Never not by no means offend the guv'nor," we are regaled with "extra verses," only recently recovered from the original MSS. in the British Museum.

But there is no need to quote any more. "The Wandering Minstrel," by the way, was first performed at the Royal Fitz-Roy Theatre, January 16, 1854. The Fitz-Roy was one of the many names bestowed upon the little theatre in Tottenham-brook, Tottenham Court-road, afterwards the Prince of Wales, under the Bancofts. The Scala now stands on the site. Sir Frank Burnand, while he was yet an undergraduate, wrote a burlesque on Villikins, which was done by the Cambridge A.D.C. November 8, 1855. The song was certainly a very taking favourite, and amused all classes. On Twelfth Night, at Tavistock House, in 1854, Charles Dickens, with Mark Lemon, the editor of "Punch," gave a performance of Fielding's burlesque of "Tom Thumb," and while Dickens was singing "Villikins and his Dinah," the author of "Vanity Fair" was greatly tickled.

"In the auditorium," says G. F. Kitton, "was seen the already grizzled head of Thackeray, who during the singing of the ballad of Villikins, rolled off his seat in a burst of laughter at the humorous absurdity of the thing." Another popular song with Robson was "The country fair."

While Robson was creating a furore at the Olympic with tragi-burlesque, such as Shylcock in "The Merchant of Venice," and comic song, the Grecian Saloon passed into the hands of Benjamin Conquest, and was opened by him as a temple of the drama, March 31, 1851, with "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and thenceforth the house was devoted to the legitimate, to burlesque, pantomime, and eventually lurid melodrama.

It may be added that such fine comedians as Harry Monkhouse, G. H. Macdermott, Arthur Williams, Harry Nicholls, Herbert Campbell, and Miss M. A. Victor graduated at the Old Grecian, under the management of George Conquest. We must not forget the Sisters Vaughan—especially that beautiful woman and graceful dancer, Kate, who made such a sensation at the old Gaiety Theatre, under the popular management of Honest John Hollingshead.

"THE QUALITY OF MERCY."

A Dramatic Playlet, by J. A. Campbell; Produced for the First Time at the Hulme Hippodrome, Manchester, on Monday, March 31. The Rt. Hon. Francis Chalonner.

Herbert Mansfield
Lord Burchell Richard Bosco
Mrs. Taylor Martha Jephson
Katharine Chalonner Mary Fulton

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. J. A. Campbell's reputation as an author of well-knit and exciting drama is sustained by his latest production for the halls, entitled "The Quality of Mercy." The theme is tragic, and deals with the heavy responsibility which rests with the Home Secretary as to whether a man who is condemned to death shall be reprieved or not. The man in question is named Taylor, who, in a quarrel with another man named Clark, about a girl, is found guilty, on the evidence of having fatally stabbed the girl, who rushed between her lovers while they were at deadly grips. The deliberations of the Home Secretary—the Rt. Hon. Francis Chalonner—on the matter are affected by a feeling that the evidence against Taylor is not conclusive; an apprehension which seems to be supported by the fact that Clark, the other man in the case, has committed suicide. Chalonner's wife, Katharine, formerly an actress, also has her sympathies aroused by the appeal on Taylor's behalf, and their interest and doubt have become so insistent that Lord Burchell, the Judge of Assize who tried the case, has been sent for to assist Chalonner to come to a decision. Lord Burchell, having directed and approved the verdict and sentence, is naturally unwilling to entertain the possibility of

FILM GOSSIP.

Electric Picture Palace, Limerick.

The Brothers Leopold, in their great horizontal bar and tumbling performances, are a big and novel attraction here this week, in addition to the now popular Pathé Budget of interesting pictorial gossip. The principal films worthy of mention are "The driver of the Deadwood coach," "The crooked path," "Something wrong with Bessie," and "A select party." The B. and C. Gazette is equally meritorious, inasmuch as patrons are afforded the most up-to-date notes and notions of the places abroad. The music as supplied by Miss Mai O'Connor is refreshing, and Mr. W. J. Potts is an assured operator. Directors Ledger and Cutbush can well be congratulated on the genuine support accorded the Electric Picture Palace of the People.

The Empire, Kilmarnock.

Kilmarnock's new picture house, the Empire, was formally opened on Thursday, the 27th ult., by the Provost of Kilmarnock. The seating is for about eight hundred, and there are tip-up chairs throughout the building. Mr. G. M. Wells is the manager, and he has already made himself very popular. The house is to be run on the continuous performance plan, and up to now has received excellent patronage. There is a fine orchestra, under the leadership of Miss Josie Squire.

Leicester Picture Houses.

At the Leicester Picture House there is again this week another fine programme, including "A signal of distress," "Dr. Bridget," "In the Pyrenees," "A hero's reward," "The dandy, or Mr. Dawson turns the tables," "The latent spark," "Along the old Turco-Bulgarian frontier," "All for a girl," "The gunfighter's son," &c. The orchestra, under Mr. Carter, play exceedingly well the selection, "Tannhäuser." At the Floral Hall Picture Theatre a most interesting programme is put forth, the pictures being shown in the usual clear manner. They consist of "The reincarnation of Karma," "In the Pyrenees," "Dr. Bridget," "Lady Clare," "Playing his master's cards," "A rough ride with nitro-glycerine," "The first stepchild," &c.

At the Grand Electric Palace, where a number of exclusives are to quickly follow one another, a pleasing and diversified "show" includes "A hero's reward," "The gunfighter's son," "Dr. Bridget," "The Turco-Bulgarian frontier," "An old appointment," "For her," "Lady Clare," "The professor's discovery," &c.

Trip Through the Highlands of Scotland.

To be released by Pathé Freres on April 9, this finely pictured scenic film shows wonderful views taken on the "Bonny Banks o' Loch Lomond." We also see the Trossachs and the famous Loch Katrine. With the dim mountains rising in the distance in majestic grandeur and the crystal lakes below, the scene is one of exceptional beauty. A touch of quaintness is given by a Highland piper and his little son, both in full dress, and the film finishes with scenes of exquisite charm of the falls of Inversnaid.

Our Lady of the Pearls.

This dramatic Mexican romance is to be released by the Selig Polyscope Co. on April 10. The scenes which form the background for this excellent picture are most interesting and instructive, and the story, which is centred round the lower coast of California, is as follows:—Anita, the belle of an inland hacienda, visits Pearl Harbour and is impressed with the desirability of gratifying her passion for pearls. A suitor for her hand learns of this and steals the votive offerings of the pearl fishers at the cathedral shrine. Eventually the eyes of the ambitious, but thoughtless, young woman are opened to the inhuman seriousness of such an offence. She returns the jewels; and the young man is brought to reckoning for his recklessness. 1,174ft.

Camping Out.

An interesting and amusing film, to be released by J. Frank Brockliss and Co. on April 10, deals with the ever popular form of holiday-camping out. A quartette of sweethearts agree to camp out for their holidays. Of course, both men and girls fancy they know all that is possible concerning this method of holiday-making, the upshot of which is that the little party breaks up, and the men and their sweethearts decide to camp out on their wild lions. The girls find, however, that erecting a tent is quite a different matter to looking after it when once up, and their attempts end with an ignominious collapse with them inside. The men are more used to roughing it, but are very glad when their sweethearts, who are frightened by some tramps, put in an appearance and beg for shelter and protection. 895ft.

The Truant's Doom.

This amusing and novel comedy film is to be released by the Western Import Co. on April 12. It deals with the terrible dream which Tommy, who plays truant from school, has when he falls asleep, after employing his time fishing. He imagines that he is captured by police and taken to Court, where all revile him, even his own mother disowning him as he is led away in convict's garb. In his dream Tommy and another convict escape, but after a stern and long chase the trembling schoolboy is shot down. However, when he wakes up to find himself still alive, his happiness is so great that he solemnly promises never to play truant again. 1,000ft.

Sammy as an Acrobat.

To be released by the Urbanora Co. on April 16, this capital comic portrays the adventures of Sammy, who, after watching a street performance of acrobats, is filled with the desire to possess large muscles also. He therefore makes use of everything that comes his way to try to improve his biceps. He buys his experience very dearly, however, and meets with many unkind rebuffs, but always perseveres cheerfully, until his desire is gained. Proudly he clenches his huge muscles expanded, but, alas, so large do they become that they burst like bubbles, and Sammy's arms are as puny as before. 355ft.

Four-footed Friends.

This attractive and interesting animal study, in which a number of four-footed pets are shown, is to be released by the Kineto Co. on April 17. In the opening section a cow and goat, who are evidently on the best of terms, are seen in a meadow together. Various species of canines are shown, and also an excellent close view of a cavy feeding. An amusing scene depicts a simple method of exercising canines by means of an apple on the end of a string. In the final section a Great Dane is considerably alarmed by an automatic toy tiger, which springs forward by means of clockwork mechanism. 385ft.

Dangers of the Street.

Under the above title the Edison Co. will release a capital film on April 16. In it are shown the dangers which have to be faced every day in our public thoroughfares, and the number of needless accidents which so frequently occur. The scenes which go to make up this picture have been worked out from typical accidents that have occurred, and include those where trams, automobiles, playing in the street, bicycle riding, and

numerous other causes contribute to the dead and injured. Quite apart from its educational value, this picture is varied and interesting throughout. 500ft.

Timbuctoo: In the French Soudan.

This highly interesting scenic picture is to be released by the Gaumont Co. on April 17. The film shows splendid views of the town of Timbuctoo, in the Soudan, presenting also the peculiarities of its life, and the various types of Moors which contribute to its population. The town stands on the trade route between the interior and the West and South, although it has only recently become a centre of interest for tourists. The houses, which are shown in the picture, are mostly one-storey mud hovels, but one of the three chief mosques is an imposing building, and is hundreds of years old. This series of effective pictures compose a good film of 405ft.

Kinoplastikon.

The sole rights for the United Kingdom of Kinoplastikon have been secured by the U. K. Kinoplastikon Co., who by arrangements with the management of the Scala will shortly present the novelty at that theatre. This new development of kinematography consists of living plastic figures projected on to an open stage, without a screen, ordinary scenery being used as a background. At the same time the voice, either singing or talking, or instrumental performance of the character or characters shown, is synchronically reproduced, giving a perfect illusion of the actual person appearing and speaking, singing, or playing. Thus we might have Caruso in opera, a statesman in oratory, Paderewski at the piano, and so forth, presented to the ear and eye in every detail.

Charles MacMahon.

Mr. Charles MacMahon, managing-director of the Dominion Picture Company, Ltd., of New Zealand, has arrived in London. An important advertisement relating to the film industry appears in this issue, stating Mr. MacMahon's plans. Mr. MacMahon's address while in England is "The Era" Office.

"QUO VADIS?"

The dramatised version of Henryk Sienkiewicz's "Quo Vadis?" produced by the Cines Co. as a screen play, was accorded an enthusiastic reception at the Alhambra on Wednesday. The scene is laid in Rome, in the time of Nero. Petronius, the favourite of the Emperor, solicits for his friend Vitellius the hand of Lygia. She is carried away from her guardians and introduced to the wild scenes of revelry at Nero's banquet. A faithful slave rescues her, and she finds shelter among the Roman Christians. Nero, lacking inspiration for his Iliad, is persuaded to set fire to Rome, of which crime the Christians are afterwards accused. They are seized, and in the great scene in the amphitheatre thrown to the lions, but Lygia is lashed to a wild bull. Her faithful slave rushes in and drags it to the ground, while Vitellius leaps into the arena to share her fate. In deference to the clamours of the populace, Nero pardons them. The closing scenes deal with the deaths of Petronius and Nero.

The burning of Rome is portrayed in colour with intense realism, and holds the audience spellbound as the people rush hither and thither, many to find no way of escape but to perish among the falling ruins. Then the vast amphitheatre, packed with thousands of spectators, commands attention as the chariots race round the arena, or as the real lions, released from their den, rush to tear asunder the group of devoted Christians huddled together in the furthest corner of the arena.

The lighting and scenic effects are magnificent throughout, especially the banquet hall of Nero's palace, the ornamental gardens at evening, the meeting place of the Christians, and the Appian Way, illuminated by the glare of the burning city.

The whole piece is carried out in perfect taste, and the result is a production which must rank as one of the finest examples of Kinematographic art. Messrs. Jury, Ltd., who introduced this remarkable film, received many congratulations from the delighted spectators.

PROPOSED FILM COMBINE.

NORTHERN EXHIBITORS' MEETING. Mr. Lindon Travers presided over a large gathering at the meeting of northern cinematograph exhibitors, held at the Crown Hotel, Newcastle, on Tuesday afternoon. The meeting was convened in emergency to consider the trade crisis in regard to the proposed film combine.

Mr. F. W. Morrison, the secretary, said that the outcome of the combine between manufacturers and "renters" would be that the price of the film would be raised, and they would be compelled to raise the price of admission to places of amusement. This meant that the poor man would not be able to get his enjoyment as cheaply as he had done in the past. He reviewed the London meeting of exhibitors of Great Britain and Ireland at which he attended as a delegate. The opinion was that the combine was illegal, and undoubtedly "in restraint of trade." Exhibitors, however, were advised to put that question aside, and consider what action should be taken in other ways to fight the trust. It was not correct to suppose that many English manufacturers and renters had joined the combine. Mr. Bell, in answer to the chairman, said that he was informed that in America the combine had raised the price of films to £70 a week. Even then exhibitors had to take anything that was given them. On the proposition of Mr. Bell, it was unanimously agreed to support the National Association to the utmost, in whatever action they should consider it necessary to take in order to fight the combine.

A USEFUL INVENTION.

The fear of fire in connection with picture palaces has long been an abiding apprehension with audiences. Therefore Mr. Paul Ruez, of Paris, is to be sincerely congratulated upon his clever invention, the Ruez Fire Extinguisher. The apparatus was shown at the International Kinematograph Exhibition, held at Olympia last week; and a demonstration of its utility was given at M. Ruez's stall at intervals throughout the show period.

The apparatus consists of a metal cylinder fixed on the top of the operator's box. The cylinder contains a liquid which is not only fire-extinguishing, but possesses fire-resisting qualities. By means of a sprinkler every part of the cabin is sprayed with the liquid, and flexible cables are so attached that, by simply pulling a handle either in the box or at various parts of the auditorium, the sprinkler is brought into use; the projection and lookout shutters are closed, and the electric current is cut off. An appliance is also provided to carry off any fumes.

The inventor claims that his apparatus will prevent the possibility of a panic among the audience should a fire occur in the operator's box; also that it renders the effects of such a fire comparatively harmless.

Mr. Medley Barnett gave a party on Friday afternoon last at the Café Marguerite in celebration of his charming daughter's seventeenth birthday. Miss Violet Barnett was the recipient of a heap of presents, and received good wishes by "phone, and wire. About thirty guests sat down to tea, which was followed by songs and speeches—humorous and otherwise.

CONTEST FOR FILM ACTORS.

A CHAT WITH MR. DAVID BARNETT.

The great interest taken in, and the striking success of, the International Cinematograph Exhibition at Olympia last week was not surprising to any who recognised the vast and rapid strides made in the industry of film-making and exhibiting. The Show was packed with instructive and interesting exhibits; every good film of the day (British or foreign) was on view at one or other of the fourteen free theatres; and there were collections of cinema appliances from 1885 till the present time. The contest for would-be photo actors was an immense attraction; and on Saturday night the Management awarded the gold and silver medals to the finalists in the competition.

The contest for cinematograph aspirants was arranged and conducted by Mr. David Barnett, the well-known film producer, and organiser of the trade section of the exhibition; who in an interesting little chat with "The Era" representative said that the task of the judges was a most difficult one. "Amongst the competitors," said Mr. Barnett, "were a German baroness and a Russian countess, and those who tried their skill in the depiction of the various emotions necessary for the little screen play arranged included men and women in nearly every calling. There were engineers, journalists, medical students, uniform nurses, market gardeners, bakers, and a large number of servants, and they hailed from all districts—Belgravia, Whitechapel, Maidstone, and Soho. The majority were very earnest and painstaking, but a few capered about and made themselves generally most idiotic. One young gentleman, in his endeavour to express horror, acted in a most ultra-dramatic manner, and finally fell off the platform. A little comedy relief like that, you may guess, vastly amused the crowds who thronged to see the competition.

"The ladies, I must say, put up a far better show than the gentlemen. Some of them were extremely good, and the winner, Miss Dene, has exceptional talent and promise. The idea of the little test piece the competitors had to perform was that a man or woman enters a room in a state of despair after a hard and fruitless day's search for work. Pennyless and tired out, he or she discovers a letter on the table saying that the recipient is heir to £20,000. Here the depiction of joy comes in. Then, on looking more closely at the envelope, it is found to be addressed to someone else. Bitter disappointment, of course, must now be expressed; then the poor wretch recognises the irony of the situation—and the piece ends in a laugh.

"Some of the competitors, of course, had most quaint notions of what was required of them. None were allowed to see the performances of others, each working out their own ideas of facial expression and movement. The winner, as I have said, gave an exceptionally clever and well-thought-out performance, and, in the hands of experienced producers many of the aspirants will, I am sure, make excellent film actors.

"We had 3,175 applications. I personally saw 990 competitors in the thirty performances given during the exhibition twice daily. At each performance I selected the best lady and gentleman, until there were only twelve left for the finals. I judged all the preliminary and semi-final examinations. Mr. Cecil Hepworth, of the Hepworth Manufacturing Company, and Mr. G. Cricks, of Cricks & Martin, being judges with me in the finale."

The first prize for ladies was awarded Miss Ethel Dene, of Canonbury, and Mr. H. R. Williams, of Enfield, gained the first for gentlemen. Seconds were secured by Miss Benck and Mr. L. Wilkinson; and thirds by Miss Boswell and Mr. L. Ceiley. Among the other most promising competitors were Miss O'Doherty, Miss Winter, and Mr. Ward. The points which counted in the competition were for expression, gesture, time, originality, appearance, and space occupied.

All the prize-winners, together with twenty of the most promising other candidates, have, we understand, been engaged by various film companies at salaries ranging from £3 to £7 a week.

Mr. David Barnett, the organiser and judge of the contest, has only lately returned from a lengthy stay in South America, and during his visit produced film plays in Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Ayres, and Valparaiso. A keen photographer, and an experienced play producer before he took to the picture business, Mr. Barnett is of opinion that there is yet room for much improvement in the acting and producing of picture plays. And fresh and really good plots must be forthcoming. He is convinced there are plenty of English film actresses and actors quite equal, if not superior, to the much-vaunted American and Continental artists. Only they must be discovered and trained. And Mr. Barnett is going to discover them.

PRESTON LICENSING JUSTICES AND THE CINEMA.

The Preston licensing justices are busy framing new regulations upon the strict observance of which all cinema licences are to be conditioned. Applicants for the renewal of these licences appeared in court, for the second time, on Friday, March 28, only to learn that the new rules were not yet completed. During the interval since the usual renewal day the Licensing Committee have visited all the houses, and have also invited and considered suggestions from the proprietors. Pending the issue of the new regulations, the justices renewed the licences of most of the theatres and picture halls until May 29, but in all cases added to the licences certain alterations in the rules. Chief amongst these were conditions specifying the permissible "standing room" at each house, these conditions specifying a gangway not less than three feet wide being kept clear in all parts of the house where standing is allowed. Other general regulations order the protection of taps of all gas jets less than 7ft. 6in. in height, and prohibit all gas meters within the building unless provided with a stop-cock outside the building.

The surprise of the day was the magistrates' refusal to renew the cinema licence of the Theatre Royal on the ground that the regulations of the Home Office were not complied with there. The solicitor for the proprietors pleaded for a renewal conditional on alterations, and said "certain things were happening" at the Theatre Royal, and that a refusal might prejudice negotiations now in progress; but the magistrates still refused. The solicitor's reference gives weight to the statement that Preston's oldest house of drama has been (or is on the eve of being) sold to a picture palace syndicate. The refusal of the magistrates to renew the cinema licence does not, of course, prevent a further application, if and when the house has been altered to comply with the cinema regulations.

Other licences refused included the cinema licence for the Public Hall, the property of the corporation, and by far the largest hall in Preston, seating 4,000, and with standing room for 2,000 more. Will Onda's Temperance Hall was also chafed off until a door in the operator's box was bricked up and another door opened out which will not open on to the public exits.

Better late than never, "The Era" Annual has just made its appearance. In addition to articles and stories by popular members of the theatrical profession, it contains a large amount of instructive matter, and full details of all important productions in London, the provinces, Paris, Berlin, and New York. "Daily Telegraph" Feb. 13, 1913.

FILMS OF THE MOMENT.

RELEASE DATES.

KINETO, LIMITED.

Studies of Reptile Life, 415ft. Ap. 3
In and Around Scotland, 395ft. Ap. 5
Silkworm Studies, 365ft. Ap. 10
Through the Highlands, 420ft. Ap. 12
Four-Footed Friends, 385ft. Ap. 17

THE AMERICAN CO.

Calamity Anne's Vanity, 995ft. Ap. 2
His Sacrifice, 985ft. Ap. 5
The Romance, 987ft. Ap. 6
The Fugitive, 1,000ft. Ap. 9
Pecos Pete in Search of a Wife, 998ft. Ap. 12
The Finer Things, 1,000ft. Ap. 12
The Cowboy Heir, 1,000ft. Ap. 16
Love is Blind, 980ft. Ap. 19
When the Light Fades, 992ft. Ap. 19

EDISON FILMS.

Running Away of Doris, 1,000ft. Ap. 2
Interrupted Wedding Bells, 1,000ft. Ap. 2
Power of Sleep, 1,000ft. Ap. 5
Red Man's Burden, 1,000ft. Ap. 6
New Day's Dawn, 1,000ft. Ap. 6
Title Cure, 1,000ft. Ap. 9
An Unsullied Shield, 1,000ft. Ap. 9
City of San Francisco, 1,000ft. Ap. 12
Eldorado Lode, 1,000ft. Ap. 12
Serenade by Proxy, 1,000ft. Ap. 12
The Maid of Honour, 1,000ft. Ap. 16
Over the Back Fence, 975ft. Ap. 16
Dangers of the Street, 500ft. Ap. 16

PATHE FRERES.

The Wonderful Doll, 335ft. Ap. 2
The Beloved Vagabond, 359ft. Ap. 2
Gwendoline, 824ft. Ap. 2
The Thief of Love, 1,225ft. Ap. 2
A Woodland Wooing, 1,964ft. Ap. 2
The Doctor's Patient, 1,871ft. Ap. 2
Training Fighting Cocks in Cuba, 355ft. Ap. 2
The Parting of the Ways, 2,600ft. Ap. 2
The Rivals, 792ft. Ap. 5
Jim Goes Fencing Mad, 377ft. Ap. 5
The Wedding Present, 766ft. Ap. 5
In the Land of the Turk, 565ft. Ap. 5
The Story of Rebecca, 1,006ft. Ap. 5
The Anatomy of Plants, 518ft. Ap. 5
Billyboy takes a Hand at Bridge, 638ft. Ap. 6
The Chateau de Blois, 460ft. Ap. 6
The Mystery of the Rue Donskaya, 2,033ft. Ap. 9
The Kubos Troupe of Japanese Acrobats, 482ft. Ap. 9

The Sheriff's Daughter, 1,082ft. Ap. 9
The Haunted Hotel, 1,176ft. Ap. 9
Heard at the Telephone, 674ft. Ap. 9
Through the Highlands of Scotland, 414ft. Ap. 9
Zaza, 1,823ft. Ap. 12
In the Land of Dreams, 499ft. Ap. 12
In the Valley of the Shadow, 956ft. Ap. 12
The Sense of Smell, 636ft. Ap. 12
The Gentleman from Texas, 427ft. Ap. 12
Queer Specimens of the Finny Tribe, 534ft. Ap. 12

GAUMONT CO.

Is Marriage a Failure? 485ft. Ap. 3
Jealousy, 510ft. Ap. 3
A Spanish Romance, 1,100ft. Ap. 3
The Rays of Death, 1,325ft. Ap. 6
Men Were Deceivers Ever, 1,000ft. Ap. 6
Woodland Streams, 190ft. Ap. 6
Simple Simon on the Warpath, 895ft. Ap. 6
A Motor Ride in the Alps, 215ft. Ap. 10
The Lady of the G.P.O., 795ft. Ap. 10
Magnets, 540ft. Ap. 10
The Rajah's Casket, 2,460ft. Ap. 13
A Pair of Braces, 985ft. Ap. 13
Rubber Culture in Brazil, 350ft. Ap. 13
The Susceptible Smith, 420ft. Ap. 13
Lost on the Rocks, 995ft. Ap. 17
Timbuctoo, 405ft. Ap. 17
A Lady's Train, 295ft. Ap. 17

URBANORA CO.

One Life for Another, 1,600ft. Ap. 2
Barcelona and Surroundings, 410ft. Ap. 2
Sammy Goes Yachting, 295ft. Ap. 2
Over the Garden Wall, 995ft. Ap. 9
Dupin as a Policeman, 485ft. Ap. 9
Birds of Prey, 285ft. Ap. 9
Impressions of Corsica, 345ft. Ap. 9
The Ranger's Wife, 775ft. Ap. 9
The Secret Cupboard, 1,985ft. Ap. 16
Through the Isles of Celebes, 400ft. Ap. 16
Sammy as an Acrobat, 395ft. Ap. 16

SELIG POLYSCOPE CO.

The Man Who Might Have Been, 1,012ft. Ap. 3
The Cowboy Editor, 537ft. Ap. 3
Whose Wife is This? 516ft. Ap. 3
Prompted by Jealousy, 1,006ft. Ap. 6
A Plain Girl's Love, 1,014ft. Ap. 6
The Clue, 1,012ft. Ap. 10
Our Lady of the Pearls, 1,174ft. Ap. 10
The Guardian of Their Hearts, 1,010ft. Ap. 13
Bud's Heiress, 1,010ft. Ap. 13
A Revolutionary Romance, 1,010ft. Ap. 17
The Lipston Cup, 1,006ft. Ap. 17
Poison Ivy, 512ft. Ap. 17

WESTERN IMPORT CO.

For Sale—A Life, 1,000ft. Ap. 2
Cross Your Heart, 1,000ft. Ap. 2
Called Back, 2,000ft. Ap. 2
Letters of a Lifetime, 1,000ft. Ap. 5
Dottie the Dancer, 1,000ft. Ap. 5
The Thunderbolt, 1,000ft. Ap. 9
Aurora Floyd, 2,000ft. Ap. 9
The Clue in the Dust, 995ft. Ap. 9
The Truant's Doom, 1,000ft. Ap. 12
Thanksgiving, 995ft. Ap. 12
Frankfurters and Quail, 1,000ft. Ap. 16
Please Help the Baby, 1,000ft. Ap. 16
The County's Prize Pony, 1,000ft. Ap. 19

HEPWORTH CO.

Silence of Richard Wilton, 725ft. Ap. 3
Blood and Bosh, 650ft. Ap. 3
Drake's Love Story, 2,325ft. Ap. 6
Monty's Mistake, 425ft. Ap. 10
Deceivers Bait, 900ft. Ap. 13

J. FRANK BROCKLISS, LTD.

Vengeance, 1,913ft. Ap. 3
The Ghost of a Bargain, 864ft. Ap. 3
A Son's Example, 1,016ft. Ap. 5
An Old-fashioned Mother, 1,000ft. Ap. 5
Making of an American Citizen, 994ft. Ap. 5
A Beetle's Deception, 925ft. Ap. 5
Beautiful Spots in Switzerland, 403ft. Ap. 5
World Weary Man, 951ft. Ap. 6
Happy Family, 714ft. Ap. 6
Lass of the Light, 955ft. Ap. 10
A Lost Luggage, 304ft. Ap. 10
A Traveller's Adventures, 1,040ft. Ap. 10
Camping Out, 894ft. Ap. 10
The Smuggler's Prisoner, 1,048ft. Ap. 12
On the Ocean, 377ft. Ap. 12
Paul and Virginia, 1,917ft. Ap. 12
Buddy and his Dog, 1,030ft. Ap. 12
Through Shadowed Vales, 972ft. Ap. 13
Perle Be Brave, 501ft. Ap. 13
Edeleweiss, 335ft. Ap. 13
The Stable Cloak, 1,400ft. Ap. 16
The Long Strike (two parts), 2,029ft. Ap. 17
The Musician, 396ft. Ap. 17
When Twenty is in Love, 889ft. Ap. 17

M. P. SALES AGENCY.

Brothers, 1,008ft. Ap. 3
The Masher Cup, 479ft. Ap. 3
What's the Use of Repeating, 535ft. Ap. 6
Thou Shalt Not, 995ft. Ap. 6

WELT.

Venice, the Queen of the Adriatic, 371ft. Ap. 6

KALEM.

The Horse that Wouldn't Stay Hitched, 515ft. Ap. 3
The Cub Reporter's Temptation, 973ft. Ap. 3
St. Augustine, Florida, 478ft. Ap. 3
The Nurse at Mulberry Bend, 988ft. Ap. 6
The Pride of Angry Bear, 1,043ft. Ap. 6

B. AND C.

Sandwich, 370ft. Ap. 3
Sagacity v. Crime, 1,254ft. Ap. 6

LUBIN.

The Lost Note, 1,024ft. Ap. 3
Down on the Rio Grande, 1,015ft. Ap. 3
Quarantined, 500ft. Ap. 3
Private Smith, 1,019ft. Ap. 6
The Girl of Sunset Pass, 1,016ft. Ap. 6
The Missing Jewels, 781ft. Ap. 6

NEW EMPIRE CINEMA AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

The latest enterprise of Messrs. Moss, Ltd., is the new cinema at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The structure is situated in Grainger-street, and has a holding capacity of 600, the prices ranging from 3d. to 1s. For the convenience of patrons of the cinema desirous of visiting the Empire Theatre in Newgate-street, it may be noted that transfers may be had, and access to the popular hall gained without re-entering the street. There is little doubt that the new house is the most handsome picture theatre, not only in Newcastle, but in the North of England. The decorations, which are chiefly in cream and gold, are of tasteful description, and on every hand it is plainly discernible that the greatest care has been taken for the comfort of visitors. The Ozonair system of pure air ventilation has been installed, and luxurious tea-rooms and spacious waiting-rooms provided.

The ground floor has a good rake, and all have an uninterrupted view of the screen, which is of adequate dimensions. The exits are such as to meet the requirements of the local authorities. There was a private view of the entertainment on Wednesday afternoon, the guests including most of Newcastle's leading citizens. The appreciative observations of those present must have been very satisfactory to Messrs. Moss, Ltd., the proprietors, and most especially to the ever-popular resident-director and pioneer of variety, Mr. Richard Thornton, to whose astuteness the new house owes its inception.

The architects are Messrs. J. H. Milburn, of Sunderland, and the builders Messrs. Stephen Easton, Ltd., of Newcastle. The seating and carpets are by Messrs. Bainbridge and Co., Ltd., of Newcastle.

The management have been fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. T. Atherton Mann as manager. The films featured this week include "A strong man's love," "The false order," "The signal of distress," &c. "Les Misérables" is billed to be screened at an early date.



This list is specially compiled for "The Era" by Messrs. Rayner and Co., registered patent agents, 37, Chancery-lane, London, from whom all information relating to patents, designs, trade marks, &c., can be obtained gratuitously.

LATEST PATENT APPLICATIONS.

7,165. Harold Waring Atkinson. Expression control gear for pneumatically-operated piano players and the like. March 25, 1913.

SPECIFICATIONS PUBLISHED THIS WEEK.

3,874. Eckschlager and Eckschlager. Mechanism of transport for the exhibition and projecting of advertisement pictures, placards, and the like. 21,627. Kyle. Advertising device for theatre curtains and the like. 23,079. Ricks and Ellison. Portable stages and the like.

LATEST PUBLISHED ABSTRACT.

SYNCHRONISING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND KINEMATOGRAPHS (27,911).

In order to avoid the necessity for a highly skilled pianist at each kinematograph display, an automatic piano is operated synchronously with the kinematograph, the tune-sheets being prepared by a composer improvising a suitable accompaniment on a recording-piano at a preliminary display. The kinematograph and automatic piano are driven by two similar motors controlled by a single switch, a regulating-rheostat, which accelerates one motor while retarding the other, being used to correct any slight loss of synchronism, marks at corresponding points on the film and music rolls being used if required to show when correction is necessary.

The specification, as open to inspection under Section 91 (3) (a), describes also two arrangements in which the two devices are driven from a single motor through friction clutches, the amount of slip in which can be varied to correct losses of synchronism, either by direct mechanical action, or in case of electro-magnetic clutches, by means of a differential rheostat, and, further, states that the marks may be rendered visible outside the hall by differently coloured lights. This subject-matter does not appear in the specification as accepted.

"The Era" Annual is highly valued by all connected with the stage for purposes of reference, and there are also thousands of playgoers who rely upon the familiar volume to keep them thoroughly conversant with matters theatrical. These players will find the Annual for 1913 not less attractive and not less comprehensive than previous issues. First there are given stories, diverting or exciting, of the experiences of well-known actors and actresses, and along with each story is given a fine portrait of the narrator. These stories are followed by an accurate and exhaustive list of all the new plays and important revivals produced at the London theatres from Dec. 1, 1911, to Nov. 30, 1912. Similar lists for the London suburban theatres and for the provinces

THE SHOWMAN WORLD

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Dartford Holiday Fair.

At all the Bank Holidays Dartford has its pleasure fairs; the showground is situated in the main thoroughfare of the ancient borough. Amongst the amusements for the holiday season were Le Neve and Norah Sullivan with their well-known side show, Purchase's miniature animal jungle, Breach's novelty booth, W. Wilson's scenic railway, D. Cain's galloping horses, and swings and overboats by Williamson, G. Pickard, and E. Tyson, throwing games, hop-las, and varieties by R. Clasper, W. Hussey, T. Irish, J. Irish, and G. Pickard.

Blackburn Great Fair.

The largest gathering of shows and machine novelties in Lancashire for the Easter Holidays is found at Blackburn. We can do no more than give a list of the novelties present at the Fair: Mander's great menagerie, Lewis's reptile jungle, Buckley's freak show, Hastings's fat lady exhibition, Stockwell's side show, and R. J. Styles's unique and delightful model show—the Convict City.

Amongst the machine devices for the amusement of the crowd were: George Green's scenic railway and wiggle-waggle, John Green's motor semi-trailer and joy wheel, Edmund Holland's galloping horses and rattle-dazzle, W. Mitchell's steam yacht, W. Shaw's steam swings and semi-trailer, Holdsworth's careering porkers and waltzing balloons, Mrs. Holden's galloping, and similar machines by W. Mitchell, Jun., and John Howard; gem horses and juvenile roundabout, swings, and overboats by H. Shuttleworth, P. Parr, and G. H. Cornwell.

The shooting ranges, bottle batteries, and rifle ranges were provided by Jacob Jewell, W. Royce, G. Cornwell, Mrs. John Cornwell, and Mrs. J. Jewell.

Throwing games in endless variety and in long avenues were provided by Forshaw, Cooper, Shaw, Grant, Shuttleworth, Slater, Butterworth, White, Ingham, West, Smith, Jephson Brothers, and Shorrocks.

Bazaars, gingerbread and toy stalls in large array were provided by Parkinson, Peachy, Hargreaves, Shaw, Lewis, Shorrocks, Buller, Brodgen, Collins, White, Butterworth, and local caterers.

Dewsbury Spring Feast.

This fair was not so well attended as usual either by show people or by the pleasure-seeking crowd. The coincidence in date with other fairs on the Yorkshire circuit accounts for the lesser number of entertainments, and the extremely bad weather—wet and stormy—that prevailed most of the time, accounted for the bad business.

The principal amusements were Marshall Brothers' circus, Goldthorpe Marshall's scenic railway, and minor amusements by Messrs. Pullen, W. Holdsworth, and other caterers on this circuit.

Norwich Fair.

The popular Easter fair at Norwich was well attended by shows, roundabouts, and other amusements. The local caterers, Messrs. Thurston and Sons, were well to the front with their various machines, and C. Thurston's vaudeville theatre of animated pictures and varieties; B. Howden and Sons' wonderland show, Arthur Sedgwick's lion show, Elliot's school of boxers, Mme. Yelma, the unbindable lady, queen of the handkerchiefs, and smaller freak and variety shows. The capital array of minor amusements included long avenues of throwing games, variety stalls, coker shies, and other amusements. In addition to the machines provided by Messrs. Thurston, the following proprietors also exhibited mechanical amusements: Richards with cakewalk, R. Howden with scenic motor-car track, Stocks Brothers three abreast galloping, and Brumby's aeroplane. There were various sets of swings, gem horses, juvenile roundabouts by Messrs. Norman, Holmes, Stocks, and other caterers.

Wombwell's the National Zoo continues its triumphant tour in the Principality, and has been located at Merthyr Tydfil and other South Wales centres of population.

Sanger's Circus at Gloucester.

Our Gloucester correspondent writes: "The renowned circus belonging to Lord John Sanger is paying a one day's visit to this town. The artists are of the very best, and include Miss Victoria George and her horse Emperor, the Yorks, the Sydneys, and Pimp, the clever comedian. The twin brother and sister horses, Snow Flake and Snow Drop, are very clever in dancing to the music; the sea lions are also very smart."

Holiday Haunts in Hampshire.

Portsmouth Easter Fair—Bartlett's galloping, J. Gale's motors, Arnold's picture show, Smith's boxing saloon, swings by J. Gale, Griggs, Castle, and T. Smith; throwing games by J. Smith, T. Smith, J. Griggs, Jun., J. Griggs, A. Weaver, and C. Ayres; coker sheets by J. Griggs, H. Griggs, T. Smith, and others. The weather being very rough on Friday and Saturday, very little trade was done. On Monday the weather cleared up, and very good business was done.

R. Wall and Son's galloping and fancy fair has recently done fairly good business on the Fair Meadow at Liss.

Harry King's portable theatre is having a successful season at Liphook.

Kimber Bros. supplied park swings, coker sheets, &c., at the Football Tournament, Petersfield, on Easter Monday.

Sanger's Hall-by-Sea, Margate.

Under the joint management of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Reeve, the glories of the Hall-by-Sea are being revived. In our advertising columns Mr. and Mrs. Reeve are seeking circus talent of every kind, animals, and birds, and other novelties and requisites.

In past and present ages we have had revolutions and unsettling of controlling authorities in both the eastern and western hemispheres, wherein kings and presidents and governors were brushed aside sans ceremony, and the laurels of conquest which they had so industriously garnered went to the depollers of their homes and authority. The British Isles have, happily, long been exempt from such turmoil, and long may such a happy state of affairs continue to be our blissful heritage. But in the various circles that go to make up the cosmic body of our nation, queer happenings have occurred, and those who by sheer merit succeeded in climbing the heights of fame found themselves suddenly dethroned from their high position. And for no apparent reason other than the spasmodic changes to which the taste in public opinion is liable. It is from this standpoint that some croakers at present are indulging in the high falutin' key apropos of rag-time and its Emperor somewhat to the following effect:—"The reign of King Feldman cannot last much longer; he will have to abdicate in favour of other fare and of jealous rivals in business." This, as we have said, is the *ulagone* of the self-constituted wisecracker; but they have not the shadow of a shade of solid foundation for the pessimistic croon.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ARTISTES WANTING ENGAGEMENTS AND MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTES.

THREE LINES (ABOUT TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Word, One Penny.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION (Post Free). UNITED KINGDOM. FOREIGN. One Quarter 6s. 6d. 8s. Half Year 13s. 6d. 16s. One Year 26s. 6d. 32s.

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NO STAMPS.

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"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

"Wire," "The Era, London." "Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

IN case of the non-delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each additional word, One Penny.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies for KENNINGTON THEATRE, S.E.

June 2, 16, 23, Aug. 18, 25, Sept. 15, Oct. 6, 13, 20, on.

DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.

May 5, 26, June 2, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, Oct. 6, 13, on.

COUNTY THEATRE, READING.

May 19, 26, Aug. 11, 18, 25, Sept. 1, Oct. 13, 20, on.

OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.

May 19, Aug. 11, 18, Oct. 6, 13, Nov. 24, Dec. 8, on.

ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.

May 12, Aug. 11, 18, 25, Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 24, on.

THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.

April 28, May 12, 19, Aug. 11, 18, 25, Sept. 15, 29, on.

OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.

Aug. 4, 11, 25, Sept. 1, 8, 22, Oct. 6, 20, Nov. 17, 24, on.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.

May 12, June 2, July 7, 14, 21, Aug. 4, 11, Sept. 15, on.

Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies for Huddersfield, April 28, May 12, 19, Reading, May 19, 26, Wolverhampton, May 12, Wire, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, WOOLWICH.

Lessee and Manager, Jules Richeux.

WANTED, Wanted, First-class Attractions, April 28, May 12, and few autumn vacancies.

Bookings, D'Oyly Carte, "Merry Widow," "Arcadians," "Our Miss Gibbs," "Kismet," "Milestones," "Ready Money," "The Quaker Girl," "Chocolate Soldier," Mrs. Langtry, "Waltz Dream," "Count of Luxembourg," "The Whip," "Glad Eye," "Bunty Pulls the Strings," "Sunshine Girl," "Drake," &c.

Re dates, Jay and Mann.

WEYMOUTH NEW THEATRE.

The Most Charming Theatre on South Coast. Seating capacity over 1,000. Holding £120 at ordinary prices. Open all the year round.

WANTED, First-class Companies, April 7, 28, May 5, 19, and on, with exceptions.

Re dates, apply Jay and Mann.

Other coms., W. R. Wallis, Manager.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.

Aug. 4, 18, 25, onwards.

GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.

Vacant, Aug. 4, 11, 25, onwards.

Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.

Vacant, Sept. 1, 8, 15, onwards.

Address, Wm. Holland, T.R., Canterbury.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.

WANTED, April 28 (obligate Will Glaze), May 5, 26, on. Weathersby's Agency, 3, Bedford-street, W.C.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, WINDSOR.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for April 7, 14, 21, May 12 (Whit.), also Autumn. Apply, J. E. Bull, as above.

THEATRE ROYAL, PETERBOROUGH.

Lessee, Lieut.-Col. Winstanley.

Bookings, first three nights of each week.

WANTED, Companies, May 19, onwards.

All communications re dates, Adams' Agency, Broadmead House, Fanton-st., S.W.

KEMBLE THEATRE, HEREFORD.

A Magnificent New Building, holding £100. Played on Easter Monday to £105 8s.

An interesting arithmetical problem.

WANTED, high-class Attractions, autumn.

Re dates, address, Adams' Agency, Broadmead House, Fanton-st., S.W.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.

Feb. 17, Joseph O'Mara Opera Co. Feb. 24, "Bella Donna," March 3, "Waltz Dream," March 10, "Milestones," March 17, Mr. Fred Terry and Miss Julia Neilson, March 24, "Chocolate Soldier" (4th visit), March 31, "The Arcadians" (6th visit), April 7, F. R. Benson's Co. (4th visit), April 14, "Kismet," April 24, "Hindle Wakes," April 28, "Princess Caprice," May 5, "Bunty Pulls the Strings" (2nd visit), May 12, Middlesbrough Amateur Opera Society in "Dorothy," "Improper Peter," "The Glad Eye" (2nd visit), "Doormats," "The Sign of the Cross," "Quaker Girl," "The Whip," "The Dancing Mistress," "The Girl in the Taxi," "Dust of Egypt," "Autumn Manoeuvres," "The Barrier," &c., &c.

WANTED, First-class Attractions.

Vacant dates—May 18, June 2, Aug. 11, 18 (Race Week) and 25, Sept. 8, Oct. 13 and 27, Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8, and 15.

Address, J. Chas. Imeson, Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, CARLISLE.

Lessee and Manager, Sidney Bacon.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Oct. 20, on.

Bookings include—"Bunty Pulls the Strings," "The Glad Eye," "Chocolate Soldier," "Milestones," "Count of Luxembourg," "Hindle Wakes," "Butterfly on the Wheel," "The Quaker Girl."

Address, Sidney Bacon, 143, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C. Telephone, 1456 Gerrard.

Telegrams, "Nocadish-Ox-London."

GRAND THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.

Vacant Dates, July 21, 3 nights; Aug. 4 to 9, 3 nights preferred; Sept. 15, 3 nights.

Also unexpectedly, through obliging a manager, Whit Monday next, 3 nights.

WANTED, Good Attractions.

Write, Manager.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

NEW THEATRE, WORCESTER.

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NEW THEATRE, WORCESTER.

COMPANIES WANTED.

SEVEN PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.

WANTED, High-class Companies.

CORONET THEATRE, LONDON, W.

May 12, 19, June 23, July onwards.

FULHAM THEATRE, S.W.

April 28, onwards.

DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.

April 24 (3), May 5 (3), 26, June dates.

GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.

May 5, and

THEATRES WANTED.

ARTHUR HINTON AND LILLA ZILLWOOD COMPANIES.

The Original and Best.

A Column of Winners.

Good Wine Needs no Bush.

"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR,"
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR,"

By Miss Emma Litchfield.

Success!!!
Success!!!
Success!!!

Verdict—Great Success.

Enough Said.

Clear Stage only required.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
May 5 and 12 (P).
May 5 and 12 (P).
May 5 and 12 (P).
May 5 and 12 (P).
May 5 and 12 (P).

Fast Booking the Autumn.
Fast Booking the Autumn.
Fast Booking the Autumn.

"HIS INDIAN WIFE."
"HIS INDIAN WIFE."

By Miss Emma Litchfield.

WANTED THEATRES.
WANTED THEATRES.
WANTED THEATRES.
WANTED THEATRES.
WANTED THEATRES.

April 21,
April 21,
April 21,
April 21,
April 21,

May 5, 26,
May 5, 26,
May 5, 26,
May 5, 26,
May 5, 26,

June 2, 9, 16,
June 2, 9, 16,
June 2, 9, 16,
June 2, 9, 16,
June 2, 9, 16,

and onwards,
and onwards,
and onwards,
and onwards,
and onwards.

"KING OF THE GIPSIES."
"KING OF THE GIPSIES."

By Miss Emma Litchfield.

WANTED THEATRES.
WANTED THEATRES.
WANTED THEATRES.
WANTED THEATRES.
WANTED THEATRES.

April 14,
April 14,
April 14,
April 14,
April 14,

Sept. 1, 15, 22,
Sept. 1, 15, 22,
Sept. 1, 15, 22,
Sept. 1, 15, 22,
Sept. 1, 15, 22,

Oct. 13,
Oct. 13,
Oct. 13,
Oct. 13,
Oct. 13,

Dec. 15, 22,
Dec. 15, 22,
Dec. 15, 22,
Dec. 15, 22,
Dec. 15, 22,

Mr. G. MORETON-WILLIAMS,
Holmdene, 3, River Bank, Hampton Court,
Telephone: 1,732, Kingston-on-Thames.

"ALLAN'S ORCHARD."
"ALLAN'S ORCHARD."

By Miss Emma Litchfield.

WANTED, BIG THEATRES.
WANTED, BIG THEATRES.
WANTED, BIG THEATRES.
WANTED, BIG THEATRES.
WANTED, BIG THEATRES.

May 19, 26,
May 19, 26,
May 19, 26,
May 19, 26,
May 19, 26,

June 9, 16, 23,
June 9, 16, 23,
June 9, 16, 23,
June 9, 16, 23,
June 9, 16, 23,

and onwards,
and onwards,
and onwards,
and onwards,
and onwards.

Autumn nearly Filled.

The Ideal Twice-Nightly Attraction.

This is without doubt the finest Spectacular production ever attempted beyond the precincts of the West-End.

Costumes, Scenery, and General Mounting Unsurpassed.

Bery of Beautiful Women.

Musical Director.

In brief, absolutely the last word in Up-to-date Enterprise.

Managers delighted.

Managers please note that owing to the enormous success of "Allan's Orchard," this play will be Toured right through the summer.

Those with Vacant Dates please communicate for this very Strong Attraction.

Messrs. Hinton and Zillwood wish to assure Managers that "Allan's Orchard" is THE Success of 1913.

If you see it in a Hinton and Zillwood Advertisement, it is so.

Re dates,
ARTHUR HINTON,
THEATRE ROYAL, BARNSELY.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Dates,
"BROUGHT TO RUIN,"
May 12, 19.

Morton Powell, Britannia Theatre, London, N.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Dates,
"GIRL WITHOUT A HOME,"
This Strong Attraction,
Aug. 4, 11, 18.

Morton Powell, Britannia Theatre, London, N.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Dates,
"GIRL'S TEMPTATION,"
This Perfect Play,
April 7.

Morton Powell, Britannia Theatre, London, N.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Dates,
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
April 21, May 5.

Morton Powell, Britannia Theatre, London, N.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Dates,
"MILL GIRL TO MILLIONAIRES,"
April 7, May 5.

Morton Powell, Britannia Theatre, London, N.

FRED. GRANVILLE'S PRODUCTIONS, LTD.
"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE,"
The Dramatic Attraction That "Never" Fails
WANTED, April 21 (P), 28 (P), June 2, 16.

Still Causing a Sensation!!!
Playing to Enormous Success!
Wanted, May 26, June 16, 23, 30.

"THE GIRL WHO RUINED HIS LIFE."
A Terrific Success!!!
Wanted, May 19, 26, June 2, 9.

Fred. Granville,
The Depository,
Cazneau street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"PASSERS-BY,"
Sept. 1, Oct. 6, 30 (3 nights), Nov. 3, 17.

North and Midland.
"THE BALKAN PRINCESS,"
with actual London Production,
Sept. 1.

Lanes, or Yorks.
"THE ARCADIAN,"
Sept. 22 (6 nights), 29 (3 nights), (South or Mid-lands),
Nov. 6, 13, 20
(three nights each date),
North or Midland.
Apply, Leslie Moreton,
1 and 2, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

"NICK CARTER, DETECTIVE."
"NICK CARTER, DETECTIVE."
"NICK CARTER, DETECTIVE."
"NICK CARTER, DETECTIVE."
"NICK CARTER, DETECTIVE."

WANTED, Aug. 4, Sept. 1, 8, Oct. 6, and onwards.
Also Xmas and New Year.
Spring fully booked.
Now booking fourth year,
at recognised theatres.

200 sheets without a repeat.
14 Artists. 3 tons of stuff.

"IN A MAN'S POWER."
"IN A MAN'S POWER."
"IN A MAN'S POWER."
"IN A MAN'S POWER."
"IN A MAN'S POWER."

Wanted,
May 26 and June 9.
J. Forbes Knowles,
Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.
Return.

"SILVER KING" CO.
Directors, Polini and Melford.

WANTED, Dates, Sept. 29, Oct. 13, 20, Nov. 3;
also Christmas Week. Dates invited for
Spring, 1914. Address, G. M. Polini, 93, Penge-
road, London, S.E.

WANTED, May 5 and 12, and various onwards.
Miss Mabel Manning
in
"Mrs. Dane's Defence," "The Liars," &c.
Also Two One-act Plays by Harold Chopin.
Communications, Millar Anderson
This, C.T., Reading. Next, T.R., Torquay.

"HINDLE WAKES."
The Play that is Breaking all Records.
WANTED, April 28, May 5, Aug. 11, 18.
All applications, Edwin T. Heys,
Mile End, Stockport.

"THE GREAT MORMON PLAY."
"THROUGH DEATH VALLEY."
WANTED, Known, Mr. Frank Bertram, having
decided to book through the Summer, has
vacant May 19, June 9, 16, and Various Autumn
dates. Address, Arthur Bertram,
5, Gilmore-road, Lewisham.

WANTED, Theatres or Halls for
various twice-nightly Pantomimes,
Jan. 19, 26, and February.
E. Dottridge, 50, Union-street, Oldham.

HERBERT FULLER'S PLAYS AND TOURS.
"AS YOUR HAIR GROWS WHITER."
WANTED, Theatres. Wire for April 28, May 5,
June 2, 9, 16, 23. Wire for April 28, May 5,
June 2, 9, 16, 23.

"MOTHERLESS."
June 16, 23, July 21, 28, Aug. 4 (P), Pantomime
production (P), and various on.
Junc., Manchester; next, Alex., Hull.

"MAN TO MAN."
EDWARD LLOYD AND CLIFFORD BOWN'S
CO.
WANTED, April 21, 28, Whit., Sept. 8.
Edward Lloyd, Theatre Royal, Woolwich.

WANTED, for "The Cowboy's Revenge,"
April 14 (follow Grand, Brighton), May 26,
June 2 (follow T.R., Leeds, precede Manchester),
Aug. 4 (follow Oldham), few onwards. Letters,
Wilson Benge, Grand, Brighton. Wires, P.O.W.,
Nuneaton.

"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."
Entire Production carried.
Twice nightly if required.
"THE LION AND THE MOUSE,"
from the Duke of York's Theatre.
WANTED, April 21, 28 (South Wales), May 5.
Ernest E. Norris, Palace T., Perth, S. Wales.

Leonard and French Present
"THE GIRL OF MY HEART."
WANTED, Whit week, only vacant date till
autumn.
"A GIRL FROM ARIZONA."
Celebrated Cowboy Actor, Lena, the Scout.
Autumn Dates Only Wanted.
"ALONE IN THE MERCILESS WORLD."
Summer Only, June Onwards.
To-day, West Stanley. Next, T.R., Rotherham.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN"
and
"NANA, The Rage of Paris."

WANTED, April 21 and May 12.
Once or Twice Nightly.

Lois Esmond, To-day, Gaiety T., Dundee.
April 7, King's T., Kilmarnock (3rd visit).

"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST."
WANTED, April 14, on; booked Marlboro',
King's, Crystal Palace, Wimbledon, T.R.,
Plymouth, Weymouth, &c. Weathersby's Agency,
3, Bedford-street, W.C.

"ALIAS JIMMY VALENTINE" and
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."
WANTED, April 28 (Midlands), May 5.
H. Hamilton Stewart, T.R., Leeds.
"THE JIMMY AND THE HUMMING BIRD."
Wanted, May 15, 16, 17, May 19; June 2, 9.
H. Hamilton Stewart,
T.R., Leeds.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
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THE PRAIRIE OUTLAW.

By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.

Two Companies on Tour: Both of equal strength.

This play has far surpassed all expectations.

The Scenery guaranteed most beautiful.

The finest Indian and Ranch Dresses ever toured.

Fast Booking Autumn Both Companies.

North Company,
Vacant Aug. 11, 18, Oct. 20, 27, Xmas.

South Company,
Vacant Aug. 11, 18, Nov. 24, onwards.

THE WILD GIRL OF THE FOREST.

By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.

Few Autumn Dates.

All New Scenery and Costumes on order for
Autumn Tour.

Special Cast being engaged.

WAS SHE TO BLAME?

By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.

Vacant May 19, 26, July 21, 28, few Autumn.

HER PATH OF SORROW.

By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.

Vacant May 26, July 21, 28, Aug. 18, Sept. 1.

Fast Booking Autumn.

This play being sent out with very Special Com-
pany and scenery, and will be a great Money-maker.

A NEW PRODUCTION.

By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.

An Australian piece. Title to be known later.

Produced at Junction, Manchester, Aug.
18, with all Mr. Broadhead's Theatres to follow.
This play will be the Tenth Production with Mr.
Broadhead. This speaks for itself. Thanks to
Mr. Broadhead, also Mr. Coulson (South Shields),
Mr. Rowe (Palace, Newcastle), Mr. Batty (Stock-
ton) for contracts.

Only vacant dates, Nov. 10, 17, Dec. 8.
Xmas and New Year settled.

THE BOY DETECTIVE.

By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon produce same Whit week,
King's, Longsight,
and it will be the greatest Success they have
toured.

THE COLLIER'S LASS.

By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.

Absolutely guaranteed to be the greatest success
on the road to-day.

Two Companies on tour and doing phenomenal
business.

Few Dates vacant this Autumn.
Toured by J. Newton Cowling.

HER SECRET LOVER.

By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.

Produced four years ago, and has been one of the
best money-makers ever toured.

Fast Booking a good Summer Tour.
Apply, for dates, J. Newton Cowling.

THEATRE ROYAL,
WOLVERHAMPTON.

Lessee, F. G. Kimberley.

The popular Dramatic House of the Town. A
First-class Theatre. Business improving
yearly.

Vacant, April 28, May 5.

PLAYS TO LET FOR STOCK.

"WHY DID SHE RUN AWAY?"

"HER SECRET LOVER" (certain towns).

"THE POWER OF THE KING."

"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."

"A SISTER'S SIN."

All by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.

"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS,"
By Walter Howard.

AUSTRALIAN AND FOREIGN
RIGHTS TO SELL OF
SEVERAL PIECES.

Managers, don't be afraid to book Mrs. F. G.
Kimberley's Plays.

They are doing the business.

Refer! Refer!

Write,

F. G. KIMBERLEY,
THEATRE ROYAL, WOLVERHAMPTON.

THEATRES WANTED.

GORE OUSELEY'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Dates,
"AUTUMN MANOEUVRES,"
Oct. 6, and various other vacancies.
GORE OUSELEY, 50, Rupert-street, W.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Dates,
"THE CINGALEE,"
June 5 (3 nights), and 9 (week).
GORE OUSELEY, 50, Rupert-street, W.

"ANN."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Dates,
GORE OUSELEY, 50, Rupert-street, W. or
HALDANE ORCHTON, 4, Park-place, S.W.

"THE GOLD DIGGERS."
OR, "THE BROKEN TRAIL."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Dates,
May 19 (to precede T.R., Stratford).
GORE OUSELEY, 50, Rupert-street, W.

"A SULTAN FOR A NIGHT;
OR, TURKISH DELIGHT."
A Musical Comedy Sketch.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Dates,
GORE OUSELEY, 50, Rupert-street, W.
Phone, Regent 2286. Wires, "Ouseley, London."
E. P. MORGAN, General Manager.

WANTED, Wanted, April 14 and 21.
April 14 and 21, on.

ARTHUR SHIRLEY'S
Greatest Success.
"THE STEPMOTHER."
"THE STEPMOTHER."
A Dramatic Story
that reaches the hearts of all.
Monday, April 7, Sadler's Wells Theatre.

FREDERIC BAUGH and FRED MOULE'S
Enormous Attraction.
"THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC."
"THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC."
All Records Broken at
Sadler's Wells Theatre last week
and
Foresters' Theatre, this week.
Palace, Bow, next week,
will do the same.
Immediately secured by
Frederick Melville, Esq.,
for Brixton Theatre.
See these Dramas before booking them.
For dates,
FREDERIC BAUGH,
Sadler's Wells Theatre, London.
Phone, Central 5890.
Wires "Stageiness, London."

"ANN."
No. 1 Co. From Criterion Theatre.
WANTED, May 5, 6, 7, 19, June 2, Aug. 4.
Haldane Crichton, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

WANTED, May 12 (through misunderstanding).
Only vacant date until Nov.
"THE KING'S ROMANCE."
"THE COTTON SPINNER."
"HER KINGDOM OF LOVE."
Wire, to-day, E. Vivian Edmonds, Grand Theatre,
Blackpool; Monday, Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

MUSICAL COMEDY SUCCESSES.

"MISS PLASTER-OF-PARIS."
and
"THE MAJOR."
WANTED, good Theatres, May 5 and 12
Henry L. Osmond, Grand T., Plymouth.

ARTISTES WANTED.

"A WHITE SLAVE."
By Edward Thane.

WANTED, First-class Heavy Leading Lady,
Strong Intense Character Actor,
Heavy Leading Man,
Up-to-date Hustling Advance Agent,
Photos and all particulars,
Joseph Millane,
Haggar's Theatre,
Llanelli, S. Wales.

"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Petite Lady, for Eric (boy's part);
also Chambermaid; one week, April 14, at
Alhambra, Manchester.
To rehearse next week.
State terms and full particulars,
Tom H. Taylor, Alhambra, Manchester.

WANTED, for well-known Dramatic Sketch,
Powerful Young Heavy Lead,
Long tour booked.
Height about 5ft. 6in.
Full particulars, recent photo, salary, &c.,
Box 4542, "The Era."

MISS LOIS DU CANE'S TOUR.
"FOR HIS KING AND THE GIRL HE LOVED."
WANTED, Wanted, First-class Comedian.
Rehearse Tuesday. Terms, &c.,
Lois Du Cane. To-day, Palace, Scunthorpe.
Next, Empire, Middleton, Lancs.

WANTED, First-class Gentleman for Part
(special two weeks) of the Secretary, in
"Disraeli" Production; refined; a man of about
40. Also a Gentleman to play an Egyptian; must
be inclined to stoutness; strong, personal sugges-
tion of the Egyptian essential. Letters, marked
"Disraeli," John Lawson, 49, Binfield-road, Clap-
ham, S.W.

WANTED, Gentleman, to play small part and
understudy; must dress well on and off;
also to do asst. bus. management (dress).
All coms., Ashley and Goldsmid, 31, Clifford-
street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, Robust Leading Man, also Character
Actor for elderly aristocratic parts;
both must be quick, reliable studies, and used to
high-class repertoire work. Also Young Actress,
able to speak French fluently. Box 4541, "The
Era."

WANTED, Artistes, Juvenile Gentleman,
Light Comedy Lady, and Child Actress;
special week; rehearse next week.
Kimberley, Theatre-Royal, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, for long tour, comedy first-class
management, Juvenile Gent., Light Come-
dian, and Waiking Gent.; all about 5ft. 8in., and
dress well on and off. Apply, Lambert, 401,
Strand, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Heavy Gent. for twice-
nightly permanent stock; state age, refs.,
measurements. Application useless without photo-
graph, to Montague Beaudyn, Victoria Theatre,
Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, Soprano, for Refined New Stage
Production. Apply, by letter only, with full
particulars and photo, to Jean Montré, 13, Nevern-
place, Earl's Court, S.W.

WINTER GARDENS,
NEW BRIGHTON.
Repertory Season of three or four weeks, in
May and June well on and off.

WANTED, Well-known Ladies and Gentlemen
for "A Bunch of Violets,"
"Mrs. Dane's Defence," also a new comedy, &c.
State lowest terms.
Please accept silence as a polite negative.
Address, Manager.

WANTED, Full Company for Stock at Hira-
combe, rehearse May 26; two plays weekly;
all must be refined and used to society plays, and
capable of drama. References, actual terms
(which must be lowest sum), photos, to Victor
Gardom, Avenue House, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Known, Lessons in Singing, Piano-
forte, Accompaniment, Coaching, Musical
Comedy, &c.; evening lessons given; rapid pro-
gress assured; many years' varied experience;
pupils visited. M. Taylor, 13, Foley-street, W.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, by a young Parisian lady, tall,
good-looking pupil of Sir H. Beerbohm
Tree's Academy. Engagement for Small Part,
Understudy, Walk On, or Chorus. Address,
Viviane de Roince, The Clifton, 6, Chilworth-st.,
Hyde Park, W.

WANTED, Known, Dorcas Thomasine Ward,
formerly Foote, theatrically known as Doris
Foote, am alive, and not dead as reported.
Address, c/o "The Era."

MUSICIANS WANTED.

PERCY MONRI IN "BOHEMIA."
WANTED. Double-handed Musicians, First Violin, Second Violin, Viola, Cello, Oboe, Flute, Bassoon. Must be capable of doubling with either Cornet, Baritone, Euphonium, Bombardion. Twelve weeks in London if suitable. State age, height, wages expected, and enclose photo. Percy Monri, Palladium Theatre, W.

HIPPODROME, STOKES-ON-TRENT.
WANTED. good First Violinist, also Pianist; used to Drama and Varieties. Terms and references. William Berson, Manager.

WANTED. Good Clarinet Player as an Attendant in a County Asylum. Salary commencing £35 10s., increasing to £49 10s., together with board, lodging, washing and uniform. Single man. Apply, with copies of testimonials, to Grainger, County Asylum, Stafford.

WANTED. good Double Bass; pic. and varieties; evening dress; open Monday next. Wire lowest terms, Horton, Mus.-Dir., Public Hall, Huncorn.

WANTED. for Swallow's International Circus, Euphonium, Trombone, and Bombardion; tenting; terms 30s. Address, Horrocks, Leader, Circus, Monday, Neath, Wales.

WANTED. Cellist, for small hotel band, May till October. Age, refs., and lowest terms to Box 4,536, "The Era."

WANTED. 'Cello Player, to open Monday next. Wire, Clark, Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead.

WANTED. Flute and Piccolo, young, wishing to gain experience for hotel work, state terms, &c. Apply, "Bijou Band," Bowness, Windermere.

LADY ENTERTAINER.
WANTED. at once, for a Large Hydropathic Establishment, for about three months; must be an accomplished pianist, with previous experience preferred. H. Chaland, Smedley's, Matlock.

PAVILION, JOHNSTONE, NEAR GLASGOW.
WANTED. open Monday next, first-class Double Drummer; used to Varieties; state lowest terms. Mace, Pavilion, Johnstone, near Glasgow.

WANTED. for Sedgwick Scenic Jungle, on Tour, Double Drums; join at once; terms, 30s. per week. Wrexham, Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday.

WANTED. for Summer Season, First-class Instrumentalists for Military Band; all instruments. Write, Box 4,519, "The Era."

WANTED. Instrumentalists for Military Band, Gorleston-on-Sea, ten weeks from July 10; four hours daily, no Sundays. Refs. and lowest terms, Chapman, 16, Anson-road, Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED. for Hawick, to open April 29, Good Ladies' Orchestra, really brilliant Pianist. All particulars, W. Payne Seddon, 10-11, Jernyn-street, London, W.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON, LANCs.
WANTED. Musicians, Attendants (Stringed Orchestra), Trombone, and Solo Euphonium, Bass Clef. None but competent players need apply. Must be single and not over 35 years of age. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, rising by annual increments of £3 to £45, and according to promotion, to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform. One day off a week is allowed, and 14 days' annual leave. Apply to the Medical Superintendent.

WANTED. Musicians, before accepting engagements at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Whitley Bay, and Tynemouth, to communicate with A. Stuart, 35, Grainger-st., East, Newcastle-on-Tyne; South Shields and North Shields, W. Ellis, 48, Mowbray-rd., S. Shields; Roker and Sunderland, J. Murgatroyd, 105, Ward-st., Sunderland.

WANTED. Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED. Known, well-known Musical-Director (Liberty) at Liberty shortly; could provide band; highest recommendations. Box 4,530, "The Era."

WANTED. for Monday, Musical-Directorship (self or orchestra), or as First or Second Violin or Expert Viola; thoroughly experienced; business. Walters, 34, Spring-gardens, Doncaster.

WANTED. Engagement, Musical-Director, any business, by Harry O'Callaghan, Ref., Vesta Tilley, Zona Vevey, G. H. Elliott, Ernest Dottridge, Fal., Oldham.

WANTED. Engagement by smart Musical-Director (Pianist and Violinist); 15 years' experience; extensive library; very highest references. Box 4,537, "The Era."

WANTED. by M.D. or C.Vio.; just finished second year panto; good lib. T. Rayman Wayt, 24, Cavour-street, Etruria, Hanley.

WANTED. Engagement, Conductor-Pianist; can double Solo Cornet; deputising; either instrument; highest references. Address, Solo Cornet, Palace, Watford.

WANTED. Engagement by Conductor, Violinist, Pianist; late Palace, Southampton, Coliseum, Whitley Bay, &c.; thoroughly experienced; good library. Conductor, 54, St. Stephen's-avenue, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

WANTED. Known, S. Burnett, open as Conductor, Leader, or First Violin. Any business. Competent, reliable, and very steady. Empire, Birmingham.

WANTED. Known, Miss Annie Trickett, Orchestra, Soloist; second return in April 15 at Cologne long Continental engagement. 78, Gough-road, Birmingham.

WANTED. Engagement, pictures or music hall orchestra, by young Violinist; can open at once. Fuller, 307, St. Ann's-road, Harringay.

WANTED. Engagement, Violinist and Pianist; highest municipal orchestras, hotel references; thoroughly experienced. Violinist-Pianist, 54, St. Stephen's-avenue, Shepherd's Bush, London.

WANTED. Engagement, Violinist, first-class player, and Soloist as leader; experienced; can supply trio. Robinson, 50, Balcombe-street, Dorset-square, N.W.

WANTED. by thoroughly experienced Violinist, Engagement; any business; London or South Coast. Apply, Box 4,531, "The Era."

WANTED. Summer or Perm. Eng., by Solo Cornet and Trumpet Player; smart, young, and right up to business; also solo playing. Box 4,529, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED. Engagement, for England and the Continent, for **MADAME STOCKHAM'S ENGLISH LADIES' ORCHESTRA.**

The ensemble comprises the world-famed **STOCKHAM HARP TRIO.** Two Vocalists, and Soloists in Violin, Cello, Flute and Piccolo, Trombone and Cornet.

10 to 20 Artists.

This Orchestra is now fulfilling a four months' engagement at the Karseboom, Amsterdam.

Free July 1, onwards.

Apply, Karseboom, Amsterdam.

WANTED. Engagement by Cornet; steady and reliable; just finished season engagement Princess Rink, Nottingham. Berry, 33, Rupert-street, Nottingham.

WANTED. Engagement by reliable Cornet; experienced all lines; young, steady; first-class references. Frank Reilly, The Pier Orchestra, Hastings.

WANTED. by good Cornet, experienced, present Touring high-class Musical Act, Summer Engagement; excellent refs.; abstainer. Letters, Stanton, Palace, Bradford.

WANTED. Known Cornet just Disengaged through reduction in orchestra; pictures, variety, or anything; good refs. B. Brown, 34, Heytesbury-street, Dublin.

WANTED. Engagement, as First or Second Cornet; any business; liberty April 7. Wire or write, Edward Jones, 11, Middle-st., Chapel-st., Blackpool.

WANTED. by Clarinet, Pictures, Drama, Variety; disengaged through theatre closing; reliable; good refs. 3, Albion-grove, Colchester.

WANTED. by Clarinet, Summer Engagement; experienced military or string; good refs. Herbert Hart, 78, Grasmere-street, Bolton.

WANTED. Known, Solo Clarinet seeks Permanent Re-engagement; long experience; pictures and variety; excellent refs.; dis. April 19. Parnis, 14, Bedford-road, Southsea.

WANTED. Engagement, experienced Bass Player (lady); dis. shortly; good repertoire of music for five performers if required. Miss B. Eri, 7, Woodfield-road, Blackpool, S.S.

WANTED. Engagement by good Double Bass; any business; at liberty now. Tom Unsworth, c/o Carter, Station-road, Broadstone, Dorset.

WANTED. by good Double Bass, Summer or Permanency; young, sober, and reliable. Whitaker, Basso, 104, Charnminster-rd., Bournemouth.

WANTED. by Double Bass, Summer Engagement, or Permanency; could double on E flat Bass; excellent references. Apply, Box 4,528, "The Era."

WANTED. Engagement, by Solo Tenor Trombone; good ex. military and orchestral business; could double with viola. Box 4,532, "The Era."

WANTED. Engagement, by Trombone; thoroughly experienced; good refs.; at liberty. E. Scott, 51, Lanfranc-rd., Worsling.

WANTED. by good and experienced reliable Trombone, used to drama, variety, and pictures (good refs.). F. Milton, 9, Colindale-street, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED. Known, First-class 'Cellist, at liberty for good engagement. Address, 'Cellist, 17, Peppys-road, New Cross, S.E.

WANTED. Known, Lady 'Cellist will give her services for experience; fair reader. 'Cellist, 4, Queensbury-place, Richmond Green.

WANTED. by 'Cello, Summer Engagement; any business; seaside preferred; thoroughly experienced; good refs. Greaves, Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.

WANTED. by Violoncellist, Engagement; fully experienced; excellent references. Add., 'Cellist, 17, Scarbrook-road, Croydon.

WANTED. Engagement by first-class Oboeist; season or permanent; young, sober, and reliable; good refs. C. I. Simmons, 46, Boundary-road, Leicester.

WANTED. Engagement, Flute and Piccolo; any business; orchestral bands, string, military; thoroughly reliable; references. X., 59, Cleveland-gardens, Barnes, London.

WANTED. Engagement, by reliable Flautist; thoroughly experienced in concert, theatre, and variety; aged 29; good refs. Flautist, The Theatre, Perth.

WANTED. by Harpist, Summer Engagement with established Troupe, or Boat work. Waters, 60, Clarence-st., Carlton-rd., Nottingham.

WANTED. Known, Harpist, Brilliant Soloist, at liberty Summer. Mand. Estlin Grundy, 78, Parkhill-road, Hampstead. Phone: 167 Hampstead.

WANTED. Known, Organist-Pianist Disengaged, Organist (first-class), disengaged; experienced with cinema work. Organist, 11, Church-road, Acton.

WANTED. Engagement, as Pianist and Organist, at Picture Theatre; one or two days weekly; good performer. Address, Composer, Box 4,443, "The Era."

WANTED. Engagement by Experienced Picture Pianist (lady). Very large repertoire. Box 4,534, "The Era."

WANTED. Engagement by Lady Pianist, A.R.C.M. Orchestra or Soloist. Good sight-reader. T. N., c/o Keogh, 241, Seven Sisters-road, N.

WANTED. Shop, in London or suburbs; any business. Harry Round, Pianist. Apply, 35, Janson-road, Stratford, Essex.

WANTED. by Two Ladies, Dramatic Soprano, well-known Pianist, Engagement, seaside hotels, Continental; extensive repertoire; first-class refs. Elizabeth Bryant, 352, Wells-road, Knowle, Bristol.

WANTED. by Drummer, Tympanist, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Church Chimes, Tubaphone, &c.; high-class refs. Wire, Box 4,530, "The Era."

WANTED. Engagement, by Tympanist, Double Drums, &c.; any business; thoroughly reliable. Drums, 19, Belgrave-square, Highfields, Sheffield.

WANTED. by Double Drummer, with Effects, young, at present Touring (liberty shortly). Re-engagement; any business. Reynard, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

WANTED. Engagement, by first-class Double Drummer; summer season; strong or military; experienced, reliable. Lilley, 55, Graham-road, Dalston, London, N.E.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED. Known, to Picture Theatres, Mme. Walter can supply Ladies' or Gentlemen's Bands.

All experienced performers and picture players. 29, Southampton-st., Fitzroy-sq., London.

WANTED. Known, Imperial Ladies' Orchestra, Vocalists, Belle, &c.; established 1890. Directress, Mme. Nellie Baker, 114, Woodlands-road, Ilford. Phone, 577 Ilford.

WANTED. Known, Dorothea A. Vincent's Royal Cremona Ladies' Orchestra, from three to forty performers, in uniform. Dorothea A. Vincent, Palace T., Luton. Phone: 443 Luton.

WANTED. Known, Mme. Winteritz's Ladies' Orchestra, now booking, Trios, Quartettes supplied; immense library, brilliant, spirited music. 31, Alexandra-road, Birmingham.

WANTED. Known, Sirebelle Ladies' Orchestra; First-class Soloists and Vocalists; large repertoire; dis. for Home or Continental engagements; also good Quartette. Sirebelle, Harbour House, Margate.

WANTED. Known, owing to Repertory Season, the Orchestra of the Grand Theatre, Croydon, will be disengaged for six weeks from April 12. Highly recommended by management. Those requiring the services of a good Orchestra, with first-class library, for a limited period, for Exhibitions, Hotels, &c., apply Mr. Nation, Conductor, Grand Theatre, Croydon.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTED.

WANTED. Wanted, Equestrian Talent, for the Summer Season, commencing July 21.

Also Specialities for Circus at Lord George Sanger's Hall by the Sea, Zoological Gardens, Margate.

Address, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Reeve.

WANTED. Good Ground and Novelty Acts; open at once; long tour. Duffy's Circus, Lismore, Ireland.

WANTED. Circus Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED. Known, Rollo, the World's Highest Slack Rope Artist, at liberty for Fêtes and Galas. Hancock's World's Fair, Devonport. Agents, Wilder Bros., Birmingham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED

WANTED. MIDDLEBROUGH. Wanted, Strong Tops for April 14 and onwards. Share or Certainty. Nothing Too Big. All communications to W. K. Chaffo, Manager, Empire, Middlesbrough.

NEW THEATRE, WORCESTER.
WANTED. Big Star Attractions, on salary, or to find complete programme on share. Arthur Carlton, New Theatre, Worcester.

PALACE, DURHAM. On the Main Line.
WANTED. Artists, Specialities, and Novelities, for immediate and future dates. T. C. Rawes, Proprietor.

PALACE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED. for April 21, Big Continental and other Novelities, Sensational and Daring Specialities, Really Funny Pantomime or Acrobatic Acts and Troupes, First-class Musical Acts and Musical Comedy Sketches, Spectacular Productions, and anything of a Novel Character calculated to make the people talk. Also Big Specialities of every description required for the following dates:—May 5, 12, 19, 26, onward. Add., Manager.

THE "WARREN" AGENCY.
WANTED. for Immediate and Future Dates, Star Turns and Acts of every description for leading Variety Theatres and Picture Halls. Nothing too big or too small if suitable. Full bookings and lowest terms, or no fee.

WANTED. Big Tops, shares or salary. Artists all lines, April 21, onwards. Can offer 10 weeks, journeys short. Kennedy Circuit, Empire, Smethwick.

EGBERT'S AGENCY.
WANTED. Star Acts, Big Speciality and anything Novel, for Immediate Dates; also good Comedy Acts, Animal Acts, for South Coast. Send full list of bookings, lithos, and lowest terms. Egbert's Agency, Piccadilly Mansions, London, W. Telephone, 5519 Gerrard. Telegrams, "Egbertency," London.

WANTED. Variety Artistes for grand competition, £1 prize given at each hall, Friday night, Sadler's Wells, Bow, Foresters', Battersea. Write (stamp for reply), Competition Manager, Sadler's Wells Theatre, Islington.

WANTED. Smart Youth, Conjurer or Vent.; long tour with pictures travelling villages. Lowest terms, Stanton, Post Office, Patterdale, Penrith.

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MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED

THE VAUDEVILLE SYNDICATE.
5, WESTERN MAIL CHAMBERS, CARDIFF.
 Phone, 787. Wires, "Hustler, Cardiff."
 General Manager, Dudley Harcourt.
 Secretary, Miss Simpson.

The Principal Booking Agents for all South Wales.
WANTED. Artists, vacant Monday, to communicate at once, and where can be found by wire.

Wanted, for April 14, and on, Big Musical. Dancing, Acrobatic, and Comedy Act.
 Note.—Nothing too big. We have artists placed from £3 to £100 per week. Always vacancies for good Series, Comedians, Sisters, &c.
 Artists in all cases must state where worked, and full particulars.
 Litho where possible. (No stamped envelopes.)
 All communications to be addressed the Manager.

HARRY LEATON'S AGENCY.
 575, Argyle-street, Glasgow.
 Wires: "Cockney, Glasgow."
 Phone: 1075 Charing Cross.

WANTED. Big Tops and Bottoms, and Artists of every description, for Immediate Dates. Nothing too big. Send full particulars, lowest terms, first instance.
 Correspondence in all Languages.
 Represented all over the Country.

WANTED. Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Big Featuring Acts, also Acts, all lines. Wanted, Tops or Shares for April 28, onwards, for Palace Theatre, Barnoldswick; also Acts (all lines must be first appearance). Full list of bookings, lowest terms. Will Lund's Agency, 197, Edge-lane, Liverpool. Wires, Comedy. Phone, 682 Royal.

NEW SPA AND GARDENS, BRIDGLINGTON.
WANTED. Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Outdoor Attractions. Must be Sensational. (Season June to Sept.) Terms, certainty, and full particulars, Manager, as above.

SITES IN GARDENS.
 Suitable for Real Novelties and Good Side Shows. Rental or Shares. Apply, Manager, as above.

FRANK COYLE'S AGENCY.
WANTED. Very Big Star Attractions, Troupes, Specialities, Comedy Acts, April 14, 21, 28, onwards. Also Big Musical Act, June 9.
 1, Cross Platts-drive, Beeston, Leeds.
 Phone, 4195. Wires, "Alarm," Beeston, Yorks.

Wires, "Lively," Newcastle.
 Quin's Buildings, Pink-lane, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED. Top Lines for all parts of the Kingdom. Terms (lowest first letter), bookings, lithos, &c.

WANTED. Variety Artistes in all lines, Monday next. Lowest terms and bookings in first letter. Pickard, Panopticon, Glasgow.

WANTED. Expert Hand-to-Hand Balancer and Acrobat; weight about 9st. Full particulars in first letter to F. Easter, 2, Beachcroft-avenue, Southall.

WANTED. Two good Acrobatic Dancers, speciality musical comedy, week April 14, Belfast. Lowest terms, Harold Wagner, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED. Troupe of Swimmers, for Summer Season, commencing at Whit-sundae. Particulars from Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL ARTISTES.
THE ROYAL VARIETY THEATRE, RUSHDEN.
WANTED. Known, April 3, onwards, all future contracts made and confirmed by Will Lund, Variety Agency, 197, Edge-lane, Liverpool, who is the sole and exclusive booking manager for this theatre. Artists holding contracts please forward bill matter to my address. All correspondence in future for this theatre to be addressed to Will Lund, 197, Edge-lane, Liverpool.

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In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division
(1911 U. No. 344).—Mr. Justice Eve.—Re the
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and others v. the United County Theatres
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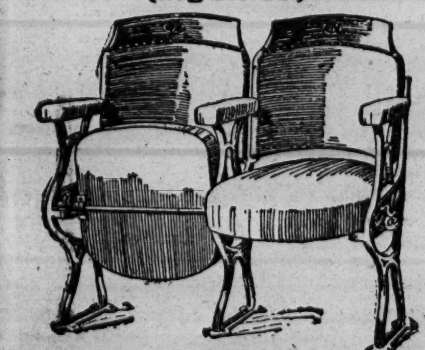
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Vacant, April 14 and 28.

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Ten Moroccan Arabs.
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"Britannia's Levée" and "A Female Sexton
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A MANN, **LUDWIG.**
Incomparable Impersonator.
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ARCULUS, Unique Novelty Instrument-
alist. This week, Globe Theatre, Gosforth.
Next week, Vic. Hall, West Stanley.

ATLAS and the Beautiful VULCANA
TROUPE. The only Champion Lady Athletes.
Palace, Ammanford, Carm. Require April 14.
Wales.

BELMONT, GEO. E. 'Twas he, at the
Sebright, 1885, who started the craze of
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BRENTON, SISTERS.
March 31, Empire, Rochdale.
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BU-VAL, the Happy Dutchman.
April 7, Queen's T., Farnworth.
Vacant, April 28 and May 5.

CARLISLE, COLIN. The smartest
vocal comedian in vaudeville.—Vide Press.
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Grapes Hotel, Oldham.
Vacant dates.

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in their enormously successful Comedy
Duologue, "He Knew it all the Time."
First vacant date, May 12.
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Wanted. State dates, lowest, &c. 57, Par-
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Wires, "Graubeste, Withington, Lancs."

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The Black Versatile Artists. Enormous
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The London Pavilion.
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DE KOLZAS, FOUR MYSTIC.
The Finest Illusory Show on the road. Four
Artists. Topping the Bill, Olympia, West Brom-
wich.

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Character Comedienne and Dancer. This,
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DRUMMER GIRLS (SIX).
Always a success. Vacant April 21.
April 7, Electric Theatre, Wakefield.

ELLIOTT SAVONAS, THE.
Musical Marvels.
April 7, The Coliseum, London.

GRATTAN, CHAS., Comedian.
Next week, New Theatre, Cambridge. Many
thanks to all for their kindest enquiries during
my illness. All coms., Karl F. Hooper's or Tom
Pacey's Agencies, London.

GREENLEES, THE FIVE,
in Novel Act, "On a Holiday." This, Pav.,
Blaydon. Next, Gem. P., Holtwhistle.

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GLADYS. Vacant, May 5.
April 7, New T., Windsor.

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ate Engagements. Star Turns. Phone, 39, Brixton.

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Hippodrome, Devonport.
Vacant, April 21.

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Hippodrome.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

JONES, MARIE, the Lady Proteus,
wants April 14, 21, 28, &c.
April 7, King's, Ramsgate.

JUDGE, MISS ELSIE (Judge's Cocka-
toos). The Acme of Bird Training. April 7,
E., Dewsbury. April 14, Pitt's Cinema, Bridgend.

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Vaudeville and Dramatic Agent (17 years
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Success again, E., Preston. Next, Metropoli-
tan. 7, Victoria-villas, Kilburn, N.W.

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Moss Tour.
Monday, Panopticon, Cardiff.

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For terms, particulars, and open time, com-
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Topping, Empire, Swansea.
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Characteristic Vocalist and Comedienne.
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MURRAY, MAUDE MAY, in her
Magnificent Electrical Aerial Dance Act.
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NERO, Instrumentalist, and his Per-
forming Dogs. Touring. Vacant Nov. 10,
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13 Little Sunshines, including LITTLE
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ROHDE and ROCHE. That Novelty
Act. The Chameleon, the Artist, and IT.
April 7, Palace, Clowne, Derbys. See "Wednesday
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"An Eastern Absurdity."
Monday, Palace T., Salisbury.

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This, Hippodrome, Lancaster. Next, Theatre
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Bella and Mippie. Big hit everywhere.
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Liberty April 7, 14, on. Genuine.
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Acrobatic Table Expert.
April 7, Black's Palace, Blyth.

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World-Famed Musical Clowns.
Circus Schumann, Aachen, Germany.

WELDA and WYNNE (Bert and
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Pyrotechnic Artists, Gala and Fête Agents.
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First vacant date, May 19.
Wire or write above, or Agents,
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YAMAMOTO and MISS KOYOSHI
TROUPE. Celebrated Japanese Equilibriste
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April 7, The Palace, Llanelli. Vacant, May 12,
on. Share or certainty if required with Own
Company.

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"The Jelly Wobble."

A P P L I C A T I O N S for **POSITIONS**
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and
VARIETY ARTISTES' BENEVOLENT FUND.
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NOTICE.
The Secretary desires the addresses of the fol-
lowing members: Costello and Freeman, the
Mowatts, Wellman, Lydia Neilson, Montes and
Welma, Alice Wyatt, Dan Gregory, Stanley
Howard, Videos, Captain Jack Kelly, and the
McKays. Will any member knowing the addresses
of the above kindly communicate with the
Secretary?

JOSEPHINE LANGLEY,
The New Lancashire
Lady Ventriloquist.

Several Tours Broadhead, V.T. Controlling
Coy., Stoll, Coliseum, London Syndicate, and
for every independent Hall away from the
Tours. Fully Booked from Jan. 1, 1912, till
Dec. 7, 1914. All contracts by my Sole Agent:

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E., WOLVERHAMPTON. W.D.

"At the risk of being considered ungallant, I
must express the opinion that the average lady
ventriloquist is not very convincing, the difference
in the voices being so slight. The best I have yet
heard to overcome this defect is Miss Josephine
Langley, who has been appearing at the Leeds City
Varieties this week. Her 'boy's' voice is full and
deep as the youth of fifteen whose voice is breaking,
and her other voices are quite distinct in pitch and
intonation. It is altogether a clever performance.
She learned the art by mimicking her brother, who
was a successful ventriloquist, now retired from
the stage, and has been at it since twelve years of
age, though she has only been two years on the
stage."—Yorkshire Post, Dec. 31, 1912.

JOSEPHINE LANGLEY,
The New Lancashire
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EMPIRE, BRISTOL.

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Telegrams: "TWIGSOMB, LONDON."

CALLS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1913.

THE LONDON HIPPODROME.

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:-

Willuhn Trio, Rudinoff, "Hullo, Rag-time!" Bioscope, Arthur F. Ward, Dobs & Borell

EMPIRE, FINSBURY PARK.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:-
Great & Good, Louie Tracey, Magini, Fred Duprez, Alfred Lester, Neil Kenyon, Bioscope, Arthur Young, Francis Letty, Caselli Sisters.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:-
Bros. Egbert, Jack Thomas, Johnson Clark, Mark Sheridan, Luis Alvarez, Bioscope, Sable Fern, Susie Belmore, Clyde Cook, Carter Livesey.

BROADWAY T., NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:-
"The Silver King."

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:-
Bert Byrne and Lady, Rondelle Fillington, Geo. Rapley, Pictures.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 2 p.m. for:-
Rob, Ivy and Lyn, Wullie Walker, Metz & M-tz, "Arms and the Girl," Bioscope, Phil Ray, Bros. Miller, Jennie Johns, Rose Hayes.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 2 p.m. for:-
Hall & Moore, Eddy Martyn, Max Erard's "Silver Wedding," Frank Melvin, Harry Tate, Giataro, Mona Warwick, Bioscope, Aggie Nolan.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.

Rehearsal at 2 p.m. for:-
Edwin Lawrence, James Fawn, Aerial Smiths, Ernie Mayne, Bioscope, Solo, Betty Boden, Haig & Novel, Arthur Melrose.

PANOPTICON, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 p.m. for:-
Lucretia & Josephine, Rismore, Pictures.

OLYMPIA, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:-
Picture Entertainment, &c.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:-
McMahon & Dufor, Park's Eton Boys, Lotto, Lilo, & Otto, Marie Studholme & Co., Little Ganty, Bioscope, Rex Fox, Callen & Emery, Rhoda Paul.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:-
Barrett & Knowles, Phil Parsons, Mona Vivian, "Eternal Waltz," Whittaker & Hill, Jack Marks, Bioscope, Emerald & Dupre.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:-
Revin & Pimple, Lloyd & Lane, Wille Bros., "McDougal at Bute," Little Kelly, Bioscope, Spiegler Quintette, Daisy Sloan, Diana & Len Grey.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:-
"The Little Breadwinner."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:-
Evelyn May, Paulhan Team, Wheeler & Berkeley, Harry Fields, Karno's "Flats," The Harlequinaders, Bioscope, McGinness Bros, Niblo's Birds.

NEW PALACE, SUMMERHILL, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:-
Royd & Villiers, Dave Abbott, Tom Sherbourne, Pictures.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:-
Frank Powell, Mona Magnet, Kalma & Co., Dorane Sisters & Wood, Wilson & Waring, Fred Tallman, Eugene Stratton, White, Palzer & White, Bioscope.

Notice to Artists.
The management invite artists engaged in Birmingham to take advantage of the handsome and high-class lounge which has recently opened adjoining the Empire Theatre, and under the same management. All facilities are provided for correspondence, &c.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:-
Rafalia & Cecilia, George Newburn, Edna Lyall, Bioscope, Gilday & Fox, Larola.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:-
Alfred Denville presents "The Miracle."

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 p.m. for:-
Fred Maitland, Stein-Esthor Trio, Ernakov, George French, Anna Eva Fay, Bioscope, Kitty Prince, Doroswami, Four Vagabonds.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 p.m. for:-
Harry Grey, Johnson & Bert, J. H. Scotland, "This is the Business," La Pia, G. H. Chirgwin, Walter Lambert, Cromo & Hamilton, Bob & Jennie Leonard, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:-
Tom Jones, Kitty Colyer, Vasco, Downes & Langford, Original Rag-time Octette, Liane D'Eve, Bioscope, Mlle. Haydee's Marionettes, Alexandre & Bertie, Talbot & Pearce.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 p.m. for:-
Isa Wise, Austen Temple, Thorpe & Coe, Burley & Burley, Jack & Evelyn, Corn & Yorkey, Ben Albert, Rosa Loader, Bioscope, Andrew McManus.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Resident-Director: Mr. Richard Thornton.

Rehearsal at 2 p.m. for:-
Alfred Wellesley, Dick Tubbs, Fred Hastings, Friend & Downing, Woody & Wells, Georgia Coons, Victoria Monks, Bioscope, Columbia Trio, Rosie Sylvester.

EMPIRE THEATRE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:-
Gracie Grahame, Dauntun-Shaw Troupe, Horace Hunter, Bioscope, Fred Keeton, Houtini, Phil Percival, Sam Kelly, Robins Collier Trio, Bissett & Scott.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:-
Three Melbournes, Irene Dillon, Louis J. Seymour, The Falcons, Sam Mayo, Karno's Co., including Albert Bruno, The Merry Messenger Boys, Bioscope, Madge Clifton.

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Managing-Director: Mr. Richard Thornton.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:-
A. D. Robbins, Gilbert Layne, Bertha Stuart, Harry Weldon.

Artists are requested to send all Bill Matter for this Hall Direct to Empire Theatre, Sunderland.

EMPIRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.

Managing-Director: Mr. Richard Thornton.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:-
Charburn's Young Stars, Billy French, The Three Alvarettas, Albert Letine, Leo Tell, "The River Girl."

Artists are requested to send all Bill Matter for this Hall Direct to Empire Theatre, Sunderland.

EMPIRE PALACE, S. SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:-

Jen Latona, Crystal & Saville, Rachel Lowe, The Martelloni Troupe, Silbon's Cats, Rolf Slater, Vera Caine.

Artists are requested to send all Bill Matter for this Hall Direct to Empire Theatre, Sunderland.

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 12.30 p.m. for:-

Marie Kay, Pictures, Colin Carli-le, Avnor & Marshall, Victor Courtney, Mignon & Les Frassetis, Ted Waite, Cleo Peel.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:-

Maude Marinelli, Pictures, Volta & Maud, Dandy Dan, Cumming & Collonna, The Floradoras.

HER MAJESTY'S, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:-

Stock Company.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:-

Picture Entertainment, Illustrated Songs, &c.

GRAND PICTURE HOUSE, WALSALL.

Picture Entertainment.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:-

"An Indian Girl's Devotion."

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ARTISTES AND AGENTS.—When an artiste or act, having previously played on the Moss' Empire Tour, is re-engaged for further dates, the Contracts will be sent to the agent who negotiated the last engagement—unless notice has been received from the artiste that this is not desired. It is therefore important that should artistes change their agents, notification in writing be immediately sent to Moss' Empires, Ltd., stating through whom they desire their business transacted.

PLEASE NOTE.—NO DEPUTIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AT REHEARSALS. ANY ARTISTES ABSENTING THEMSELVES WILL BE LIABLE TO HAVE THEIR CONTRACTS CANCELLED.

SPECIAL PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE AT EACH THEATRE FOR THE EXHIBITION OF LOOSE PHOTOGRAPHS. ARTISTES ARE REQUESTED TO SUPPLY THESE TO THE MANAGER ON REACHING THE THEATRE, AND THEY WILL BE RETURNED IN GOOD CONDITION AT THE END OF THE WEEK

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.—All applications by either Artistes or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier. **SILENCE, A POLITE NEGATIVE.** To avoid confusion Artistes employing Agents should accredit one only at one time to do their business.

BOOKING DEPARTMENT.—This department is now under the supervision of Mr. ERNEST WIGHTON.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SOUTH SHIELDS.—Artistes and Agents wishing to submit TRIALS for their Acts in the North should apply to the Manager, as Matinees are held every Wednesday for that purpose.

N.B.—MR. FRANK ALLEN or MR. ERNEST WIGHTON can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTES.—Artistes must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to HEAD OFFICES; at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artistes will run the risk of having their engagements cancelled. **IMPORTANT.**—Artistes must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artistes are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artistes' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities. **ARTISTES WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.**

IMPORTANT.—All sketches produced at the above theatres must be licensed by the Lord Chamberlain. A complete copy of the script of every sketch as licensed, with a copy of the Lord Chamberlain's licence, must be sent to the Head Office twenty-one days at least before the performance of the sketch at any of the above Theatres.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the London Offices, and signed by either Mr. Frank Allen (the Managing Director) or Mr. N. Pallister (the Business Manager), otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the London Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

THE LONDON SYNDICATE HALLS.

Providing Continuous Engagements for Artists at the most Important Variety Theatres in the London Area.

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Telephone Nos., Gerrard 5654 and 2619.

Calls for Monday, April 7, 1913.

LONDON PAVILION.

Rehearsal at 12

Jock McKay, Anthony Ellis' Co. "Hullo Exchange," the McNaughtons, Julian Mack, Katie Butler, the Gothans, Ernest Shand, Minnie Leslie, Rich and Rich, Kibbey, Five Vernons, Kit Keen, the Dayton Family.

TIVOLI.

Rehearsal at 12

Wilkie Bard, Melville Gideon, Josephine Davis, La Belle Nello, Tom Stuart, Peggy Pryde, Zigeuner Quartette, Sisters Reeve, Tom Foy and Co., etc.

OXFORD.

Rehearsal at 12

Neil Kenyon, Two Bobs, Gus Elen, Frank L. Gregory Troupe, Martin Adeson and Co., R. H. Douglass, Jissie Curlette, John Weil, Tom Gott, Walker and Lake, George Prince, Dan Whitley, Marie Courtenay, Pyck Tholl and Taylor, Society Quartette.

METROPOLITAN.

Rehearsal at 12.45

Ernest C. Rolls presents "Ragmania," Olga, Elgar and Eli Hudson, Five X-Rays, Josephine Davis, Lily Long, Wilfred Burnand, Reg. Bolton, Cameron Quartette, the Athlones, Lily Burnand, Frank Mayo, Dion Wade, Bioscope.

SOUTH LONDON.

Rehearsal at 12

Ernest C. Rolls presents "Ragmania," Johnny McElroy and Co., John Weil, Thorne and Leopold, Stanley Lupino, Herbert Rule, Bert Weston, Frank syvo, Sisters Reeve, Lily Morris, Bioscope.

These Calls are communicated by the Managements for the information of Artists "without prejudice."

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MUM'S THE WORD

IS A SUCCESS, THANKS.

FRED CAMPLIN

Sketch Star in MUM'S THE WORD.

APRIL 7, HIPPO., IPSWICH.

THE 8 RAGTIME SISTERS

A charming and refined English Ragtime Act.

Music arranged by A. W. KETELBEY.

AN ABSOLUTELY ORIGINAL IDEA BEAUTIFULLY CARRIED OUT

Booked on the Continent to open April.

APRIL 7, HIPPO., IPSWICH.

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Music by A. W. KETELBEY.

Including:

FREDDY RIGBY and LOUIS DU CANE.

The most original sketch of modern times. ONE SCREAM.

APRIL 7, EMPIRE, WAKEFIELD.

ETHEL WARD, HER MADCAP MAJESTY

The most beautiful sketch touring, and what a draw!

Music by A. W. KETELBEY.

VACANT—October 6 onwards, with exceptions.

APRIL 7, WOOLWICH.

Communications to the Author and Producer of above—

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MISS OLGA ESME,

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CONFUSION (Seven Artistes.) ON THE BEACH

CONFUSION ON THE BEACH, ON THE BEACH

CONFUSION (Seven Artistes.) ON THE BEACH

CONFUSION This Week, ON THE BEACH

CONFUSION TIVOLI, DUBLIN. ON THE BEACH

CONFUSION Vacant—April 21 and 28. ON THE BEACH

CONFUSION SIR FRANCIS BURNAND'S ON THE BEACH

CONFUSION Three Act Laughing Success, ON THE BEACH

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THE LOSS OF THE TITANIC

(The Immortal Tale of Simple Heroism.)

EMPIRE, COWDENBEATH, Sole Agent, HARRY BURNS.

EMPIRE CAMBERWELL

Proprietress and Manageress Mrs. JOHN LAWSON
Expensive Engagement of the famous SCOTCH COMEDIAN the world is talking about



SANDY MCNAB

The Greatest of all 'Scotch Comedians'

THE MAN WHO GETS THE LAUGHS.

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No Advance in Prices

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To Hotel Proprietors who regularly file "The Era."

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Chairman & Managing Director, OSWALD STOLL.

Secretary and Chief Accountant, W. S. GORDON MICHIE.

ARTISTES' DEPARTMENT: Negotiations—A. D. DAVIS; Dates—LLEWELLYN JOHNS.

Address all communications to the Managing Director.

CALLS FOR APRIL 7, 1913.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—

Florence Smithson, George Grave, Fanny Fields, Fragon, James A. Watts, Wood and Green, Clovelly Girls, Gwendie Llewellyn, Guy and Graha ne, Woodward's Seals, Kinemacolor, Eight Elliott-Savanas.

Please note the Continental Pitch has been adopted by the Coliseum Orchestra.

THE NEW MIDDLESEX.

Rehearsal at 11 a.m. for:—

"The Work Girl," Jenny Castelle, Rich Taylor, Oswald Williams, Selection, Bioscope.

THE HACKNEY EMPIRE.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—

Vesta Tilley, Sammy Shields, The Great Wieland, Signorina Malicella, Mona Raven, Bioscope, Dean Tribune, Four Amaranths, Three Rascals, Lily Souter.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

Rehearsal at 12.30 p.m. for:—

Marie Dainton, Molly Wells, Lepzig, Finney Sisters, Harvey Boys, Dean Tribune, Nan C. Hearne, Bioscope, Jewel's "Change," Haidee de Rance.

THE CHISWICK EMPIRE.

Rehearsal at 12.30 p.m. for:—

Arthur Prince, Lily Leonard, The Romanys, Five Petrels, Daly Cooper and Mabel Lait, Ettie Howard, Bioscope, Signor Giovanni Chiti, Carr's American Rag-timers, Four Elles.

WOOD GREEN EMPIRE.

Rehearsal at 12.30 p.m. for:—

Schwarz Bros., Harmony Four, Adam Tomlinson, Les Videos, The Four Wards, The Three Walkers, The Two Tomboys, Winsie Wayne, Bioscope, Bert Gilbert.

NOTE.—Artistes engaged at any of the above theatres should send photos for display in front of the house to Manager, to be returned at end of the week.

NOTE.—All sketches played at the above theatres must be licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, and a copy of the licence, together with script as licensed, must be sent to the Stoll Offices at least 21 days before date of performance.

Arrangements for additional Theatres include—

FULHAM EMPIRE.

The distance as the crow flies between the Finsbury Park Empire and the Wood Green Empire, measured on the Ordnance Survey Map, is 2 miles 60 yards.—Edward Stanford.

BAND PARTS REQUIRED.—14 different parts for English Orchestration and 17 for Foreign Orchestration. Bristol Hippodrome requires 20 parts, including 3 first violins and piano part for harp.

ADVERTISING MATTER.—Bills, Blocks, Photographs, and specimens of Pictorials really representing the Act, should be forwarded three weeks before opening. If return of photographs required, please say so.

STAGE DEPARTMENT.—Songs proposed to be sung should be submitted, and special stage requirements stated, in letters marked "Stage Department," by Artists three weeks before opening.

COARSENESS, VULGARITY, &c., is not allowed. The Licensing Authorities forbid this and the majority of the public resent it. This intimation is only rendered necessary by a very few Artists.

ARTISTES' SCENERY AND PROPERTIES must be fireproofed or they cannot be brought into the Theatre. This is by order of the Licensing Authorities.

BUSINESS NOTICE OF GENERAL APPLICATION.—No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the above Theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll or the Secretary, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases where goods are required at once suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within 48 hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the above Head Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c. submitted for consideration.

These calls are communicated by the Management for the information of artistes "without prejudice."

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WILLIAM HENRY BROADHEAD & SON, Amusement Caterers.

All Communications, Bill Matter, &c., to Percy B. Broadhead, Hippodrome, Manchester. Blocks, Lithos, Plots, &c., direct to the Hall the engagement is for.

Telegraphic Address: "Broadheads, Manchester." Telephone: 5928 & 5929 City Manchester.

Artistes wishing to negotiate engagements, Agents and Managers of Touring Companies can be seen between the hours of 11 and 1 (Mondays and Saturdays excepted).

CALLS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1913.

ASHTON—Empire Hippodrome.—Mortley Four, Leslie Bros., Tiny Arnold, Bilfords, Harry Anderson, Saltley and Nibs, Glenroy Troupe, Harry Taft, John F. Traynor and Co. 2.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE—Empress Roller Rink.—Skating, Two Sessions Daily.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE—Pavilion Theatre.—Hicks and Yorke, Pictures, 11. Matinée, Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday, 2.30.

BURY—Hippodrome.—Herbert Shelley, Musical Bentleys, Harrison Bros., Mark Leslie, Moore and Sumner, Pictures, Sisters Marion, Tim Carlisle. 2.

ECCLÉS—Crown Theatre.—Lewis's Mannikins, Two Rows, Pictures, 2.

LIVERPOOL—Pavilion Theatre.—Max Erard's "Shepherdland," Reg Wentworth, Roland and Mack, J. F. Elliston & Co., Frances McNulty, Angers and Escott, Mike S. Whallen. 2.

MANCHESTER—Hippodrome.—"The Pride of Byzantium," 2.

MANCHESTER—Junction Theatre.—"The Prisoner of Zenda," 2.

MANCHESTER—King's Theatre.—"Monte Cristo," 2.

MANCHESTER—Metropole Theatre.—"The Idol of Paris," 11. Matinée, Monday, 2.30.

MANCHESTER—Osborne Theatre.—Austin and Edmond's Repertoire Co. 2.

MANCHESTER—Queen's Park Hippodrome.—"The Christian," 2.

MORECAMBE—Winter Gardens.—Pictures, Dancing, &c. 11.

PRESTON—Hippodrome.—Hama-mura Family, Little Cluley, Keir and Fairlamb, Harry Marlow, Gillette, Wee Josie, Adras, Anna Dorothy, Polly and Day. 11. Matinée, Monday, 2.30.

PRESTON—Palace Theatre.—The Lodge-Percy Repertoire Company. 2.

SALFORD—Hippodrome.—"The Slave Girl," 2. Matinée, Tuesday, 2.30.

These calls are communicated by the Management for the information of artistes "without prejudice."

MISS MARIE LLOYD.
HIPPODROME, LEWISHAM.
Sole Representative, Walter Bentley.
New Songs and Dresses
on her return to town.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA.
Queen of Domestic Comedy.
IN TOWN.
Address, Milton Hall, Loughborough-park,
Brixton, S.W.

ALEXANDRA DAGMAR.
In Town.
Business-Manager, G. Barclay.

EMMIE AMES.
"Emmie's Xmas tree," still going strong.
ON TOUR.
Perm. address, Hippo, Wisbech, Cam.

Booked Moss' Empires, Tivoli, Oxford, Pavilion,
Syndicate, Gibbons, &c.

MISS LOUIE TRACY.
The Dapper Dandy Boy.
March 31, Tottenham and Walthamstow
(sharing Middle each Hall).
April 7, EMPIRE, FINSBURY PARK.
Mr. Tom Claxton.

FLORRIE FORDE.
The World's Greatest Chorus Singer.
April 7, PALACE, GLASGOW.

DORMA MORGAN.
Versatile Comedienne.
April 7, EMPIRE, YORK.
Coms., 7, St. Anthony's-avenue, Eastbourne.
Panto., 1913-14, Principal Boy, Milton Bode and
J. F. Graham.

MLLE. YETTA.
The only Lady Dancing Act on the Wire.
Has a few Vacancies this year.
Next week, PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.
Per. add., 7, Radnet-street, Kensington Park-road,
S.E.; or E. de Vere, 72, Waterloo-road, S.E.

The Incomparable Character Comedy Artiste.
MILLIE PAYNE.
New contracts for three years with London
Gulliver Circuit, arranged by H. Thurston.
Chelsea Palace and Kilburn Empire, bottom of
bill. Splendid receptions. Enormous success.
April 7, PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

MISS BERTIE ADAMS.
Just concluded season with Huntley Wright
and Co. in "Autumn Manoeuvres."
Blackmore's Agency.

MISS IRENE DILLON.
The Big-Little Girl,
with New Numbers.
April 7, STRATFORD.

MISS DOLLY HARMER.
April 7,
OPERA HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
Vacant April 14 and 21.
Offers invited, Musical Comedy or Vaudeville.

MISS JEN LATONA.
April 7,
SOUTH SHIELDS.
Phone, Brixton 1812.
Will Collins, Business Manager.

FREGOLIA.
The Woman who is Never Herself.
STOLL'S, CHATHAM.

MISS RENE RALPH.
PALACE, WELLINGBOROUGH.
Engaged by Mr. S. Hyman for South Africa.
Sailing April 19.
Sole Agents, Fred and Horace Reeves.

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The Coming Comedy Star.
Herbert Darnley's Company,
"Enquire Within."
Enormous Success.
Next week,
HOLBORN EMPIRE.

MISS MINNIE LESLIE
as Sister Geraldine,
"NUN NICER."
April 7, LONDON PAVILION.
P.A., 235, King's-road, Chelsea, S.W.

MAMIE FENTON
and Co. in an Original Scotch Scena.
MAMIE FENTON,
Author and Composer of Gertie Gitana's latest
Successes.
This week, Savoy, Glasgow.
A few immediate Vacancies.
Wire above; or Agents, G. Barclay and Co.

MISS BEATRICE WILLEY.
Just concluded successful Tour with Mr.
Geo. Dance's "Autumn Manoeuvres" Co. Sails
April 19 for Special Engagement, Palladium,
Johannesburg. Rejoins Mr. Dance for Autumn
production.

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EMPIRE,
JOHANNESBURG.

MISS VESTA TILLEY.
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LELIA ROZE.
Permanent address,
Avonmouth House, Mudeford, Hants.
Business coms., above address.

An Artiste to her finger-tips.
MISS DAISY DORMER
Resumed business last week at
Empire, Birmingham.
Top of the bill.
ISLINGTON AND PALLADIUM.

A "Star" that Never Fails to Shine.
GERTIE GITANA.
The Idol of the People.
April 7,
CAMBERWELL PALACE
and KILBURN EMPIRE.
Business-Manager, Jim O'Connor.
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The Artiste who pleases every audience.
MABEL SINCLAIR.
Britain's Premier Lady Ventriloquist.
ON TOUR.

Proprietor of the Original Farolical Ventriloquist
Interlude, "FLIRTING." Fully booked, 1913, 14,
and 15. Manager, Arthur Palling.

MISS HETTY KING.
14, Clarendon-court,
Maida Vale, W.
Manager, Ernest Lotings.

MADAME SLAPOFFSKI.
Australia's Representative Prima Donna.
April 10, "The Creation."
Brighton Philharmonic Society.
May 14, "Il Trovatore."
June 19, The Steinway Hall.
Business-Manager, A. Emmett Adams,
c/o "The Era."

MISS LOLA PATEY.
the Dainty Character Comedienne. Disen-
gaged Pantomime. Coms., Mr. H. Blackmore,
Variety Agents; G. and F. Peel, Granville House,
Strand, W.C. To-night, Opera House, Dunfermline.
April 7, E., SUNDERLAND.

LITTLE BETTY RENEE.
the Great Child Dancer,
after her tremendous success as Fairy Queen,
Panto., "Twinkle Little Star,"
Prince of Wales Theatre, Birmingham.
will make her first appearance in London
on Monday, April 14, at the
BEDFORD PALACE.

Managers are invited to witness this New Act.
Sole Agent, Harry Day.

GEORGE RAPPLEY.
the "Wake 'em up" Comedian.
This week, Alex. T. Stoke Newington (10.15),
with "Days that will never come again" and
"Men we love."

Owing to Enormous Success, retained by Manage-
ment to appear at the same place next week with
"The old baked potatoe can"
and "Rag-time crazy."

GEORGE RAPPLEY.
the "Wake 'em up" Comedian.
Only five weeks vacant this year.
Coms., Day and Liddy.

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RICHARD WARNER and CO., LTD
LYRIC-CHAMBERS
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Temporary Telephone,
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WORLD'S VARIETY AGENCY.
41, CHARING CROSS-ROAD, LONDON.
Telephone number has been changed from
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Artistes booked for England, Continent, Africa,
Australia, and America.
Representatives all over the world.

MR. HARRIS FINEBERG.
Theatrical and Variety Agent.
Address, pro tem.,
c/o "The Era."

MARIE LOFTUS.
99, Tulce-bill, S.W.
Phone, 736 Brixton.
Coms., Sam Lloyd.

As Principal Boy another Nellie Farren.
MISS LILLIE LANGTRY.
Brilliant success in Wales. Eight songs nightly.
Monday, GRANVILLE COLLINS'S, ISLING-
TON, and SURREY THEATRE. Not related to
another person going by the name of Langtry on
the halls.

LIL HAWTHORNE.
April 7, EMPIRE, MANCHESTER

MY FANCY.
"The" Dancer.
SOUTH AFRICA.
SYDNEY HYMAN TOUR.
All coms., Harry Bawn, 18, Adam-street, W.C.

MISS DAISY JAMES.
Everybody's Favourite.
April 7, PALACE, PLYMOUTH.
Coms., 65, Sudbourne-road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
Phone: 2115 Brixton.

VIOLET LORRAINE.
Panto. with Mr. J. C. Williamson, as
Principal Boy in "Puss in Boots."

Address all communications, Philip Suckling, at
Somers and Masters, 1, Tottenham Court-road, W.
MILLIE DORIS.
the Blizzard of Mirth.
Répertoire of 50 Comedy Songs.
April 7, HIPPO., EXETER.
Manager, Tom Claxton, Sen.

Our Comedy Juggling Act stands alone.
FRANCIS and ALFRED.
HIPPODROME, BURTON-ON-TRENT.
Exclusive Agent, E. de Vere, 72, Waterloo-rd., S.E.

MARTIN CLARA
ADESON and BERNARD.
"A Doubtful Policy,"
by Wal Pink.
THE OXFORD.

JOHN MABEL
TERRY and LAMBERT.
International Character Impersonators.
Address,
Friars Club, 107, W. 45-st., New York City.

DAN LENO JUN.
Prin. Com., Messrs. Stedman's
New Production,
CHELSEA PALACE, April 14.
Summer Tour.
Prin. Com., The Sparklets.
Own show, The Orchids, in August.
Panto. with Mr. Milton Bode.
Busy, thanks!

F. SCHWARZ COMPANY,
in the Original Sketch,
"THE BROKEN MIRROR."
Permanent address,
C/o H. B. Marneilli, Ltd., 18, Charing Cross-road,
London, W.C.

E. D. NICHOLLS.
A comedian with new methods, and a
unique personality.—The "People," Sept. 8, 1912.
"That Dreadful Detective," "Dare-Devil
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